



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



FORT STANWIX NATIONAL MONUMENT

2009

FINAL GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
&
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FORT STANWIX NATIONAL MONUMENT

Final General Management Plan And Environmental Impact Statement

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document serves two functions: (1) it is a Final General Management Plan (FGMP) for Fort Stanwix National Monument (NM) and (2) it is also a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which assesses the probable impacts of the proposed plan and alternatives to it. The purpose of the Fort Stanwix NM General Management Plan is to define the basic management philosophy that will guide park management decisions over the next 15 to 20 years and to direct the actions required to support that philosophy. This document describes the conditions and experiences that currently occur at Fort Stanwix NM and those that should exist in the near future. The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation could be many years in the future.

The National Park Service began this process in Fiscal Year 1997. During this time, two studies examining areas that are geographically and thematically relevant to Fort Stanwix NM also were undertaken—Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site in Whitestown, NY, and the Northern Frontier encompassing a ten-county area of central New York. Oriskany Battlefield is a site in close proximity and with strong historical connections to Fort Stanwix. The study for a boundary adjustment for Oriskany Battlefield (2001) was undertaken with the intent of using its findings in the Fort Stanwix General Management Plan. The study addressed Oriskany Battlefield's inclusion in the national park system. The study found that Oriskany Battlefield is nationally significant and it would be suitable to be added to the national park system. The study did not find it feasible at the time to include in the national park system, because of New York State's interest in continuing to manage the battlefield site. The park will continue to explore with New York State officials the feasibility of a future boundary adjustment and agreements to manage the site cooperatively or include the site in the national park system.

The Northern Frontier study was prepared as an independent document, not necessarily designed to explicitly relate to the Fort Stanwix general management planning process; the study addressed the possible definition and designation of a national heritage area. The Northern Frontier Study, which was reviewed by the public in late 2002, was completed and forwarded to Congress in late 2003. The studies did not recommend establishment of a new national park system unit or a new national heritage area. The findings of the studies included recommendations for collaborative programming and activities involving Fort Stanwix NM and Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and broader outreach efforts by Fort Stanwix NM to better integrate and affiliate with Northern Frontier interpretive themes and related sites.

Extensive research and consultation with many subject matter experts, local community representatives, and institutions was conducted throughout the planning process. Thoughtful participation by Fort Stanwix NM staff, partners, city offices, community groups, tribal organizations, state agencies, and other institutions has been instrumental in developing the plan. The GMP/EIS describes two planning alternatives – a “No Action” and a “Preferred Action” alternative. The NPS selected the Preferred Action alternative, which builds upon key aspects of the 1967 master plan but also recognizes current historical scholarship and partnership opportunities, offers the best balance of resource preservation, public use, and partnership. The two planning alternatives described below share several common elements. Both recognize the 2005 opening of the multi-purpose Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center, which addressed longstanding operational needs; both provide for visitor orientation (the Willett Center proposal underwent its own public planning and environmental compliance process, which was completed in early 2003). The No Action alternative defines current management practices and conditions. The Preferred Action alternative defines the 21st century role for Fort Stanwix NM within the context of central New York in a number of areas, including resource education, preservation, and partnerships.

Alternative 1

No Action Alternative: The No Action alternative describes current management practices and conditions at Fort Stanwix National Monument. Current management directions, practices, and conditions would continue largely unchanged if this alternative is selected.

Alternative 2

Preferred Alternative: The National Park Service would propose significantly broadening the context of interpretation and collaborative heritage development and preservation initiatives involving local and regional partners. Fort Stanwix would take advantage of existing authorities to increase its capacity to support community outreach and other partnership initiatives.

Alternative 2 has been identified as the environmentally preferred alternative, since it provides the greater number of benefits in comparison with Alternative 1. Any adverse impacts are considered minimal.

Estimated operations and development costs for each of the two alternatives are provided. Potential environmental impacts on the cultural resources, interpretive and educational programming, visitor services, park operations, parking, circulation, and the socioeconomic environments are also included. The costs are subject to NPS budget priorities and available funding.

The Public Review Process and Record of Decision

After the distribution of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, there was a 60-day public review and comment period, after which the NPS planning team evaluated comments from other federal agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals regarding the draft plan. The planning team incorporated appropriate changes into a Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The final plan includes letters from governmental agencies, any substantive public comments on the draft document, and NPS responses to those comments. Following distribution of the final plan and a 30-day no-action period, a record of decision approving the final plan is signed by the NPS regional director. The record of decision documents the NPS selection of an alternative for implementation. Once it is signed the plan can then be implemented.

Implementation of the Plan

The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. The implementation of the approved plan will depend on future funding, and it could also be affected by factors such as changes in NPS staffing, visitor use patterns, and unanticipated environmental changes. Full implementation could be many years in the future. After the general management plan is approved, additional feasibility studies and more detailed planning, environmental documentation, and consultations would be completed, as appropriate, before certain actions in the preferred alternative can be carried out.

Future program and implementation plans, describing specific actions that managers intend to undertake and accomplish in the monument, will tier from the desired conditions and long-term goals set forth in this general management plan.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iv
List of Figures	v
List of Tables	v
Part 1. Planning Background	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Purpose and Need for Park	1
1.3 Park Description	2
1.4 Significance, Vision, Mission of Fort Stanwix	7
1.5 Fort Stanwix National Monument Fundamental Resources and Values	9
1.6 Issues to be Addressed by GMP	13
Part 2. Management Alternatives	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.2 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative	15
2.3 Alternative 2: The Preferred Action Alternative	21
2.4 Alternatives Eliminated from Consideration	28
2.5 Summary of Alternatives	29
Part 3. The Affected Environment	32
3.1 Impact Topics Eliminated from Further Analysis	32
3.2 Assessment of Resources	35
Part 4. Environmental Consequences	51
4.1 Introduction	51
4.2 Methodology	51
4.3 Projects That Make Up the Cumulative Impact Scenario	53
4.4 Impairment of Resources	53
4.5 Impacts of Actions Associated with Alternative One: No Action	54
4.6 Impacts of Actions Associated with Alternative Two: Preferred Action	57
4.7 Summary of Impacts	62
Part 5. Consultation	63
5.1 American Indian Consultation	63
5.2 State and Federal Consultation	63
5.3 List of Recipients	63
Appendices	66
Appendix 1: Park Legislation	66
Appendix 2: Description of Fort Features	67
Appendix 3: Section 106 Consultation Requirements for Plan Undertakings	68
Appendix 4: Glossary	69
Appendix 5: Socioeconomic Conditions of Rome, NY, Region	72
Appendix 6: Bibliography	82
Appendix 7: Response to Public Comments	87
List of Preparers	106

List of Figures

1. Fort Stanwix NM Existing Conditions	4
2. Fort Stanwix NM Maintenance Facility	14
3. Alternative 1 – No Action	20
4. Alternative 2 – Preferred Action	27
5. Fort Stanwix NM and the City of Rome, New York	38
6. Fort Stanwix NM – View for South Lawn Area	49
7. Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center	50
8. View Looking East from Fort to James St. Parking Garage	50

List of Tables

1. Fort Stanwix NM Fundamental Resources & Values	9
2. Summary of Alternatives	29
3. Contexts of Resource Assessments	35
4. Criteria for Impact Intensities	52
5. Summary of Impacts	62
6. Employment by Sector	72
7. Unemployment Rate	72
8. Labor Force	73
9. Major Employers in Rome Area	73
10. Sales Tax Collections	74
11. Annual Visitation, Fort Stanwix NM	76
12. Fort Stanwix NM Visitors & Spending by Segment, 2003	77

Part 1. Planning Background

1.1 Introduction

This Final General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FGMP/FEIS) presents two management alternatives for Fort Stanwix National Monument: a “No Action” and a “Preferred Action” alternative. Potential consequences and environmental impacts of each alternative have been identified and assessed.

General management plans are intended to be conceptual documents that establish a management philosophy and provide a basic foundation for decision making and problem solving in parks. General management plans provide guidance over a 15 to 20 year period and help to ensure that the park has a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use. Actions called for in general management plans and in subsequent implementation plans are accomplished over an extended period of time. Full implementation of the general management plan is largely contingent on the availability of funds and changing National Park Service or national budget priorities. Implementation could be many years in the future. Once the general management plan has been approved, additional feasibility studies and more detailed planning, environmental documentation, and consultations would be completed, as appropriate, before certain actions in the preferred alternative can be carried out.

This plan has been developed by a core team of professionals including park staff at Fort Stanwix NM, planners from the National Park Service Northeast Region’s Boston Office, staff from Saratoga National Historical Park, and key partners within the community. The core team worked closely in consultation with representatives of the City of Rome, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), various “friends” and Revolutionary War groups, former Representative Sherwood Boehlert’s office, the Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor Commission, the Northern Frontier Project, Inc., the Oneida Indian Nation, New York State Museum, and the Rome Historical Society. The National Park Service staff and private consultants prepared several studies and reports in support of the management planning process. These research projects provided critical baseline data and detailed information to the planning team.

1.2 Purpose and Need for the Plan

The National Park Service requires a general management plan (GMP) for each unit of the National Park System. According to the National Park Service *Management Policies 2006*, Section 2.3.1, “The purpose of each general management plan, which will begin with the development of a foundation statement for the park unit, will be to ensure that the park has a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use.”

Several plans have guided the development and programming for Fort Stanwix, including a master plan (1967), a comprehensive design report (1973), a Development Concept Plan (1974), and an Interpretive Prospectus (1975). More recently, a Business Plan (2002) and a Long Range Interpretive Plan (2003) have been completed. In compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), annual plans have been developed by park staff to guide park activities for each year. Many of the proposals in these previous plans have been carried out, although several phases of the fort’s reconstruction were never completed. The multi-purpose Marinus Willet Center was opened in 2005.

The GMP addresses strategies for the provision of visitor services and the protection of resources; identifies development proposals and associated costs; examines partnership opportunities; and addresses carrying capacity and the park boundary. The final environmental impact statement (FEIS) ensures that the policies and goals defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321 et. seq.) are integrated into the planning,

decision making, and actions of the National Park

Service regarding the management of the park. The

FEIS assesses the proposals advanced in the plan for potential environmental and socioeconomic effects on site resources, visitor experience, and the surrounding area. National Park Service leadership carefully considers this information through analysis of the benefits, environmental impacts, and costs of alternative courses of action.

1.2.1 General Management Plan Structure

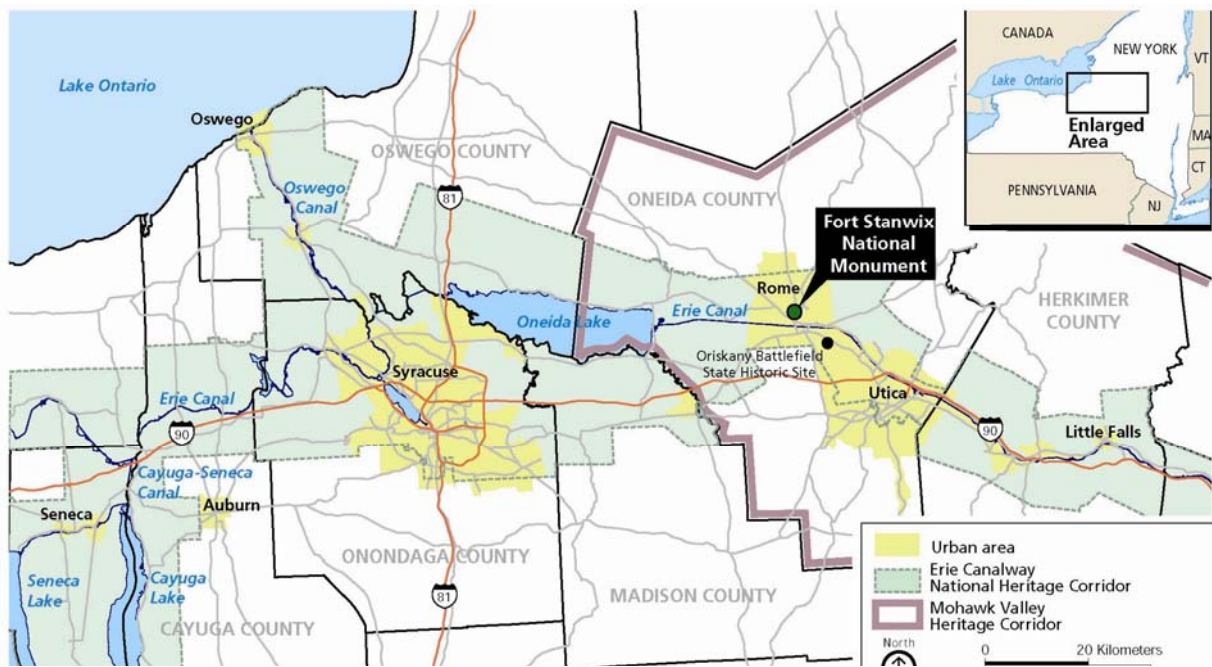
The general management plan is divided into four parts:

- **Part 1: Planning Background** – describes the purpose of the general management plan and environmental impact statement, the park and its environs, the national monument’s purpose, significance and mission goals, and the issues and concerns that have influenced the plan.
- **Part 2: Management Alternatives** – describes the two alternatives – a No Action alternative and a Preferred Action alternative, as well as alternatives that have been considered but rejected.
- **Part 3: The Affected Environment** – describes the cultural, natural, and socioeconomic environment potentially affected by implementing the alternatives.
- **Part 4: Environmental Consequences** – describes the potential impacts that would result from implementing each of the alternatives. Part 4 also describes public involvement and agency coordination during the planning process and identifies the principal parties who have prepared and will receive this document.
- The **Appendix** includes additional information, as well as the park’s enabling legislation and information from related technical studies.

1.3 Park Description

1.3.1 Community Context

Fort Stanwix is located in the city of Rome, Oneida County, New York, along the main east-west transportation corridor of upstate New York. This corridor initially developed along natural river systems, reinforced by the Erie Canal, railroad lines, and the New York State Thruway. Rome is located in the 24th Congressional District.



The development of Rome was originally historically centered on Dominick and James Streets as laid out by Dominick Lynch in the 1800s, prior to the construction of the Erie Canal, and surrounding the present site of Fort Stanwix. Through massive urban renewal projects begun in the 1960s, including the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, the historic downtown was in large part replaced by new larger urban blocks, a pedestrian mall on Dominick Street, and less dense development. Planning by the city of Rome is underway to reinvigorate the downtown core. To that end, the city has removed the pedestrian mall and reintroduced vehicular traffic to that section of Dominick Street.

Nearly 22.5 million people live within a 200-mile radius of the fort—on average, a three and one-half hour drive. Twenty-five per cent of the U.S. and Canadian population are within a day's drive of the fort; New York City is 264 miles away, Montreal and Toronto roughly 300 miles, Ottawa 235 miles, and Boston 231 miles. Syracuse, NY, the nearest large city, is 40 miles away. Albany is roughly 90 miles away, and Buffalo is 200 miles.

Rome's climate offers four distinct seasons. January days average 20 degrees and July days average 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Summer humidity averages around 60 percent. Rome receives an average of 43.28 inches of precipitation each year and, thanks to "lake effect" snowfall off Lake Ontario, an average of 153 inches of snow each year.

1.3.2 Fort Stanwix National Monument

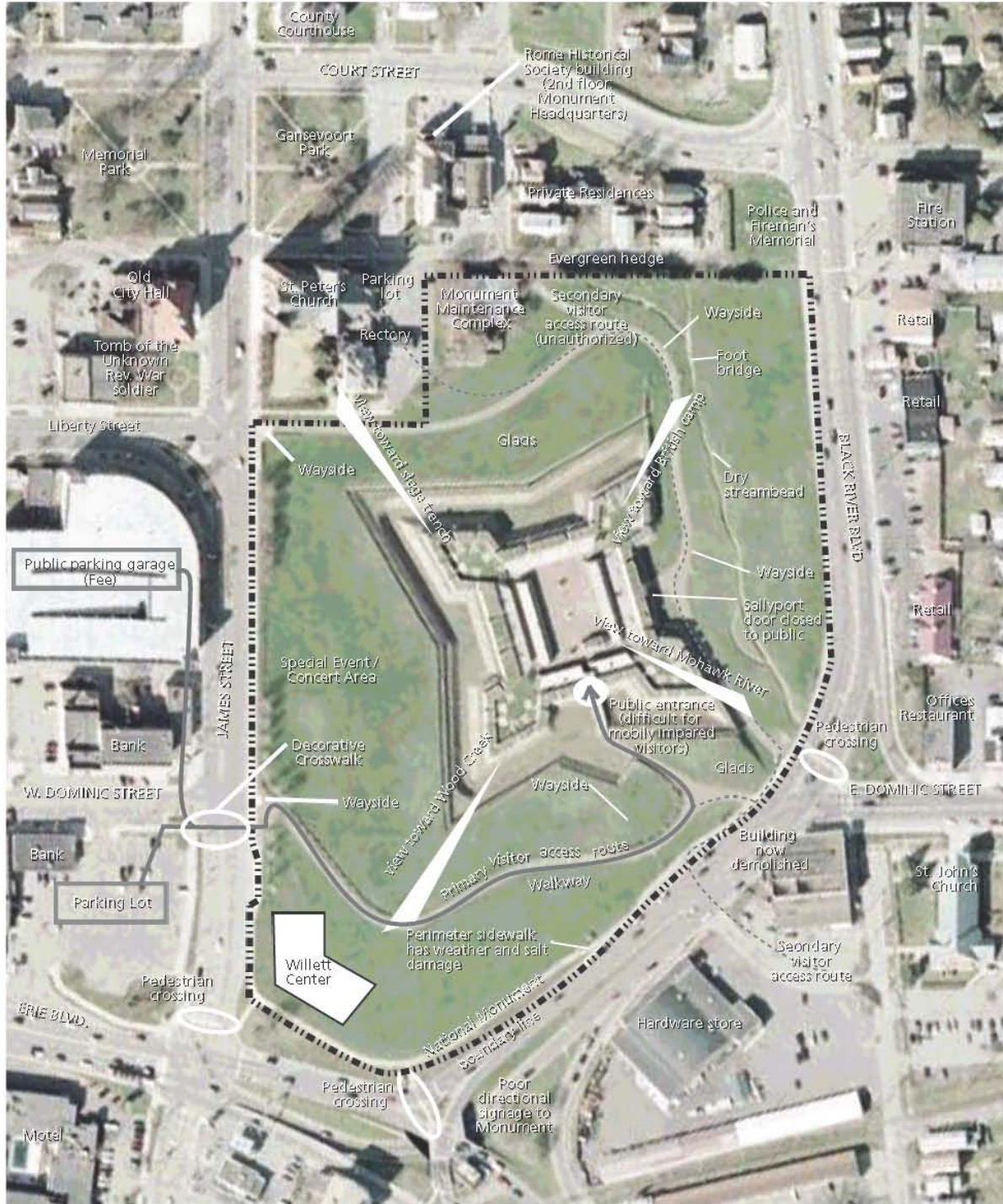
Fort Stanwix National Monument is a reconstructed Revolutionary War-era fort, with related outworks. It is federally owned and managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The reconstructed fort was built on the footprint of the original Fort Stanwix. The site was established as a national monument in 1935, but fort reconstruction did not commence until 1974 when an archeological study by NPS was completed. The reconstructed fort was opened to the public in 1976, exhibiting a portion of the extensive archeological collections found on-site. The National Monument site occupies approximately 16 acres and is bordered by main thoroughfares surrounded by a mixture of commercial, residential, light industrial, and institutional land uses, none of which were present during the fort's period of occupation. The site of the fort, but not the reconstructed structure, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark, significant for the events that transpired there during the American Revolution.

The reconstructed fort consists of an earth and timber-clad, reinforced concrete structure that surrounds three freestanding buildings. Located within the reconstructed fort, there is an original feature -- the foundation of a brick hearth. A detailed description of the fort features can be found in the Affected Environment section (Part Three) of this document. Several structures which were proposed in the 1967 master plan have not been reconstructed, including the Ravelin, Sally Port, Headquarters, and Guardhouse.

There are a number of sites located within a day's drive of the fort that are related to the siege of Fort Stanwix. They include Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater, NY, and Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site in nearby Whitestown.

The reconstructed fort is closed to the public during the winter months, but the Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center (2005) is open year-round.

Figure 1: Fort Stanwix NM Existing Conditions



1.3.3 Creating Fort Stanwix National Monument

After the 150th anniversary of the siege was celebrated in 1927, interest in the fort and the historic events in which it had figured was renewed. The State of New York purchased a small lot and erected a commemorative monument on the site in 1927. As a result of state and local interest, Fort Stanwix National Monument was authorized by Public Law No. 74-291 [s.739] August 21, 1935 [see 16 U.S.C. 450 l-n] in order to preserve “*a national monument for the benefit and inspiration of the people.*” Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes recommended that the bill be passed, noting that the area is “the site of a battle of great importance in American history and is worthy of federal protection...”

Although the legislation further states that the Secretary may designate some or all of the Fort Stanwix site (including the buildings and other property located there) as is “*necessary or desirable for national monument purposes,*” no formal boundaries have ever been established. The National Park Service was also authorized to accept donations of land, interests in land and/or buildings, structures, and other property, as well as donations of funds for this purpose and/or for subsequent facility management.

At the time of its national monument designation, the site was examined, and recommendations were made for its management. The National Park Service recommended that a monument not be built on the site, but instead, that a marker be placed. No further action was taken at Fort Stanwix until November 1962, when the site of the fort was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL). In 1963 a bronze marker recognizing the National Historic Landmark was placed on the site. In the mid-1960s, officials of the city of Rome requested that the National Park Service provide the city with advice on development of the fort as a part of planned urban renewal.

New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller signed a bill on July 14, 1965, giving the city of Rome authority to purchase land so that development of the fort could get underway. Concurrently, the NPS prepared a master plan for administering, protecting, and developing Fort Stanwix National Monument. This master plan was completed in 1967.

Subsequently, the city’s urban renewal program cleared approximately 70 structures and five streets from the fort site to prepare for reconstruction. Full title to the fort site was conveyed to the U.S. Government in 1973. Groundbreaking for the fort reconstruction project was held on August 23, 1974. Reconstruction of the fort was based on extensive archeological and historical research which was largely completed between 1970 and 1973.

Archeologists continued salvage archeology during 1974 and 1975 while the fort was being rebuilt. The first phase of reconstruction was completed in 1976, in time to open the fort for the nation’s bicentennial celebration. The fort was opened to the public on March 10, 1976, and was dedicated in a ceremony held on May 22, 1976.

1.3.4 Other Recent Planning Efforts and Initiatives

Fort Stanwix National Monument - Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center

Environmental Assessment (2003): The Willett Center (opened summer of 2005), named for the officer who was second-in-command of the fort during the siege, serves as the park's primary visitor orientation, education, and collections management facility. The Center enhances the operations, collections management, education and interpretation of Fort Stanwix National Monument. Within the facility are exhibits, audiovisual presentations, a bookstore, and a climate-controlled museum collections storage area for 450,000 objects.

National Park Service - Northern Frontier Special Resource Study (2002): Related to Fort Stanwix National Monument, this regional initiative assessed options for formal heritage related designation of the Northern Frontier area encompassing part or all of 10 counties between Schenectady and Oswego, New York. This report also recognizes both the historic significance of Fort Stanwix and its role as a central attraction in the Mohawk

Valley region. The recommendations of this report could serve as a foundation for administrative, cultural

resources, and interpretive programming that would effectively link the fort to the heritage resources of the region. In-depth interpretation of the role of the Six Nations in colonial history also is emphasized in the recommendations of the Northern Frontier Special Resource Study.

National Park Service Study of Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site (2001): Directed by Congress, the NPS initiated a study of whether to incorporate the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site into the national park system. Before a study was completed, the NPS concluded that it should seek to develop an enhanced cooperative partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which manages Oriskany. Fort Stanwix and Oriskany Battlefield seek to share resources and improve resource protection, interpretation, and the visitor experience.

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Preservation and Management Plan: This national heritage corridor was established by Congress in December 2000, following completion of a special resource study in 1998 by the National Park Service. The 27-member federal commission has prepared a preservation and management plan to identify, preserve, promote, maintain, and interpret the historical, natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Erie and related canals and foster economic development and community revitalization. The designation applies to all 234 municipalities adjoining the 524 miles of navigable waterway that comprise the New York State Canal System, including the Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, and Oswego canals, the historic alignments of these canals, and related navigable lakes. The City of Rome, astride the Erie Canal, is included within the boundary of the national heritage corridor.

New York State Canal Recreationway: Based on a 1995 plan directed by the state legislature, the New York State Canal Recreationway is a state-sponsored effort to rehabilitate the existing New York State Canal System (active Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga and Seneca Canals) and revitalize it for recreational use as commercial activity has substantially declined. A towpath-based trail between Albany and Buffalo for bicycling, hiking, etc., and provision of increased canal recreational boating services are two of the major Recreationway initiatives that will have an impact on the City of Rome and the Village of Oriskany that lie adjacent to the 20th century Erie Barge Canal. The Erie Canalway Trail will be 348 miles long. The New York State Canal Corporation maintains the canal system.

North Country National Scenic Trail (NPS): When completed the trail will become the longest continuous hiking trail in the United States. From the Missouri River in North Dakota to the shores of Lake Champlain in New York, the trail allows hikers to experience a variety of features. Authorized by the National Trails Act, as amended, and established in March, 1980, the North Country National Scenic Trail links scenic, natural, historic, and cultural areas in seven northern states, including Fort Stanwix National Monument. The unit administrator is working with state and local volunteer groups, the City of Rome, and various partners to connect trail ends on either side of the city, permitting hikers to visit the fort.

Mohawk River Trail Plan: Rome's Comprehensive Master Plan and Parks Master Plan address the importance of trails along the Mohawk River and Erie Canal as a way to provide heritage and recreational resources for the community. Designated in 2003 as one of 12 New York State Quality Communities, Rome has worked with the New York Department of State - Coastal Resources Office to create a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program focusing on trails and other developments along the Mohawk River and the Erie Barge Canal. The City of Rome received a 2004 technical assistance grant from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program to study bicycle route alternatives to safely connect the city with the proposed river and canal bicycle trails. In 2006, Rome received a Transportation Enhancements Award for the Mohawk River Trail. When complete, this trail will connect several resources, including the Fort Stanwix National Monument.

City of Rome Comprehensive Master Plan: In 2003, the City of Rome completed a two-year comprehensive

master planning effort. Included in the Comprehensive Plan is an Action Plan component that is intended to provide current and future city leaders and other stakeholders with guidance regarding the kind of place residents would like Rome to become. The City of Rome Master Plan includes three catalyst projects: 1) Rome Family Recreation Campus; 2) Central Business District Improvements; and 3) Main Street Corridors. These catalyst projects integrate Fort Stanwix to varying degrees. The plan focuses on planned investments in human, technological, educational, financial, and physical infrastructure with the goal of creating economic opportunity, achieving high levels of employment, and quality jobs.

Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor: Established in 1999, the Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor Commission (MVHCC) completed an *Interpretive Facility Development Plan* for the corridor that includes specific recommendations for a western gateway center for the Mohawk Valley. Rome is envisioned as one of four facility development sites for the corridor. The MVHCC report acknowledges that the interpretation of Oriskany Battlefield and its relationship to Fort Stanwix is an important part of the overall educational outreach within the valley and that a western gateway center will be a key component in linking the significant sites.

1.4 Purpose - Significance - Vision of Fort Stanwix National Monument

1.4.1 Park Purpose

The purpose of Fort Stanwix National Monument is to preserve the location, resources, and stories associated with the military, political, and cultural events that occurred at the site of Fort Stanwix and to provide opportunities for visitor understanding and appreciation of these events.

1.4.2 Significance

Fort Stanwix National Monument is significant because it commemorates the broader contest of nations for economic and political control of the rich resources within the Mohawk Valley region of New York State and the Northern Frontier during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

In particular, it derives its primary significance because:

- During the American Revolution, the successful defense of Fort Stanwix and the Battle at Oriskany in 1777 undermined British strategy and helped to win European allies for the United States. The outcome of the siege of Fort Stanwix and the Battle at Oriskany are of great importance in American history and contributed to the American victory at the pivotal Battle of Saratoga.
- Beginning with the earliest contacts at The Great Carry (near Fort Stanwix), continuing through the influential years of Sir William Johnson, and culminating in the Treaties of 1790 negotiated at Fort Stanwix, a controversial pattern of European/American Indian relations evolved through the negotiation and signing of various treaties. These treaties served as the basis for contemporary legislative policy at both the state and national levels pertaining to American Indian relations.
- The national monument, as part of the Mohawk Valley, preserves and interprets the historical record of critical events related to the Six Nations experience, the military activities, the cultural diversity, and the geographic situation that characterized the development of both the colonies and the United States.
- Fort Stanwix reflects 18th-century military architecture and armaments and provides a place to study the interaction of geography with military strategy and tactics.

1.4.3 Visitor Experience Vision Statement

The visitor experience vision statement was developed from GMP purpose and significance statements and

from input from partners and the public. People visiting Fort Stanwix National Monument, both in person and virtually, should appreciate the significance of military events at Fort Stanwix that shaped the outcome of the American Revolution as well as the place that Fort Stanwix played in the relations between American Indians, the British, French, and Americans during the 18th century.

Through well developed orientation media, visitors are provided the information they need to explore and understand the site. Quality programming communicates the park's stories and resources for a range of audiences. It fosters opportunities for visitors to make emotional and intellectual connections with the meanings of those stories and resources.

1.4.4 Parkwide Interpretive Themes

There are four themes that the park's interpretive programming and media will introduce and fully explore:

1. The history of Fort Stanwix, from first contact through the end of the fort's useful military life, symbolizes the broader contest of nations (European and American Indian) for economic and political control of the Oneida Carrying Place, the Mohawk Valley, and the rich resources of North America.

Interpretation of this theme weaves local events into the tapestry of regional, national, and international events. It offers a chronology of military strategy and diplomatic history in the region and places that history into regional, national, and international contexts.

2. During the American Revolution, the successful defense of Fort Stanwix in 1777 undermined British strategy and helped win European allies for the United States.

This theme helps visitors understand what happened at Fort Stanwix and why it was important to American History.

Several events contributed to the defense of Fort Stanwix. Continental troops strengthened the fort and critical supplies arrived in advance of British Colonel Barry St. Leger. The attempt to relieve the siege of the fort by Tryon County militia (the Battle of Oriskany) weakened the British, Loyalist, and Indian forces. A successful American sortie against the enemy captured supplies needed for a prolonged siege. And a second American relief attempt convinced St. Leger to withdraw from the still defiant fort. Unsupported by St. Leger, harassed by a Patriot army in Vermont, and defeated at Saratoga, British General John Burgoyne surrendered his invading army. The French, impressed with American battlefield resolve, joined the war against the British.

3. The combatants involved in building, living, and fighting at and around Fort Stanwix illustrate the human complexities of the American Revolution and provide a variety of personal perspectives on historical events, such as the devastation of the Mohawk Valley.

This theme focuses on who was involved at Fort Stanwix during the American Revolution. It interprets the diverse personal stories associated with Fort Stanwix. It discusses the perspectives of those who built the fort, fought at the fort, and why many would endure an isolated post like Fort Stanwix, particularly in wartime.

Residents of the Mohawk Valley fought on both sides of the Revolution; many nationalities were represented on muster rolls. The Six Nations Confederacy split as its member nations took sides and fought. And when the

division between military and civilian objectives blurred, women and children endured the raids that bypassed military bastions like Fort Stanwix and destroyed crops, villages, and human lives.

4. *Beginning with the earliest contacts at the Great Carry, continuing through the influential years of Sir William Johnson, and culminating in the Treaties of 1790 negotiated at Fort Stanwix, a controversial pattern of European/American Indian relations evolved and was applied on a national level.*

Fort Stanwix brought together military officers and diplomats, priests and ministers, chiefs, sachems, and war chiefs to test their powers of negotiation and diplomacy and to argue differing world views. The treaties negotiated at the site in 1768 and 1784 established boundary lines, created reservations, ceded native lands, and set precedents generally applied to interaction with other native tribes in other parts of the country. According to Daniel K. Richter’s chapter “The States, the United States and the Canandaigua Treaty,” in *Treaty of Canandaigua 1794* (2000), the Treaty of Fort Stanwix of 1784 was the first effort of the United States, after securing its independence from Great Britain, to establish formal relations with Indian peoples.

In addition to these interpretative themes, the fort possesses an extensive archaeological collection illustrative of the 19th- and 20th-century development of Rome, NY. Although this collection is outside the primary mission of the park, it will be maintained and made available for research and/or exhibit.

1.5 Fort Stanwix National Monument Fundamental Resources

The table below defines and analyzes the resources and values determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the Fort Stanwix National Monument’s purpose and maintaining its significance.

Table 1: Fort Stanwix NM Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental Resource	Analysis and Guiding Principles
<p>Fort Stanwix Archeological Site</p>	<p>Importance: The location of Fort Stanwix was a known portage area and was likely utilized from the beginning of human settlement in Central New York. The portage was a link between Wood Creek and the Mohawk River, an important transportation route, and hence a strategic military site. Fort Stanwix was originally built in 1758 to protect British supply lines during the French and Indian War. During the American Revolution in 1777, American troops successfully resisted a British siege at Fort Stanwix, setting the stage for the critical American victory at Saratoga. The fort was abandoned in 1781.</p> <p>Euro-American settlement in the Rome area began after 1785 with the settlement of Lynchville, renamed Rome in 1819. The digging of the Erie Canal, and later the Black River Canal, extended the ability of Rome to easily reach markets from New York City to the Great Lakes. The site of Fort Stanwix became the focus for Rome’s industrial, commercial, and residential development and gradually evidence of the fort disappeared under city development.</p> <p>Current State and Related Trends: During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the main elements of the fort were excavated, along with many 19th- and 20th- century features associated with buildings that had been constructed over the ruins. The grounds of Fort Stanwix National Monument still have potential for containing additional archeological resources relating to the Oneida Carrying Place, Fort Stanwix, and 19th-century Rome, New York. Significant 19th- and 20th-century archeological sites have been found north and south of the fort. These sites are generally in good condition, based on information contained in the Archeological Sites Management Information System database. Significantly, burials of soldiers have been found in the immediate area of the fort and archeological research should precede any ground-disturbing excavations, particularly in the northern sections of the monument.</p>

	<p>Potential Future Threats: Known archeological resources at Fort Stanwix National Monument need to be protected from unauthorized excavation and vandalism and further studied to document their nature and significance in order to inform site planning and management. Additional surveys and evaluations are needed to identify other significant sites that are predicted to be present on park lands and assess and document their significance. Otherwise, loss of these resources may occur.</p> <p>There is potential for municipal infrastructure/utility line relocation and street realignments that could affect the Fort Stanwix National Monument.</p> <p>Stakeholder Interests: Fort Stanwix National Monument has been identified as an ethnographic resource important to nations of the Six Nations Confederacy, particularly the Oneida Nation, and possibly other Indian tribes from the area of the Great Lakes. Members of the Six Nations and Great Lakes tribes used the carry before the fort was established and served in military operations at the fort between 1758 and 1781. The Oneida Nation gave the British permission to build a fort on the site during the 1750s. The fort was the site of treaty signings between the British and the Indians, particularly the Treaty of 1768. In 1784, the United States negotiated a treaty with the Six Nations, who had sided with the British, to give up much of their land. The State of New York also negotiated four land deals with the Oneida, Onondaga, and Cayuga Indians at the site in 1788 and 1790.</p> <p>In 1996, Fort Stanwix National Monument initiated an active program of ethnographic resource documentation focused on associations between American Indians and other ethnic or associated groups with ties to Fort Stanwix National Monument and Oriskany Battlefield. In 2002, the National Park Service signed a formal General Agreement with the Oneida Indian Nation of New York to promote mutual cooperation and assistance with resources protection, interpretation, and public relationships.</p> <p>Laws and Policy Guidance: All cultural management activities are guided by DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guideline. Laws and policies in effect for the protection of archeological resources also include National Park Service Management Policies, The National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11593: “Archeological Resources Protection Act,” and the Secretary of Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.</p> <p>GMP Issues: Formalize the boundary of the National Monument, since it has never been definitively established by the federal government; develop a strategy for Fort Stanwix NM to strengthen the National Monument as a community partner and tie its operating capacity more effectively to neighboring attractions, including Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site; complete needed historical and contextual studies to achieve the interpretive and educational potential of the site and inform resource management and preservation; the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for Fort Stanwix National Monument should be substantially revised and updated to reflect current scholarship to emphasize the range of significant resources needing further study and preservation.</p>
<p>Fort Stanwix Historical and Archeological Collections</p>	<p>Importance: As the Collections Management Plan for the park states, the park’s archeological collection is among the most significant set of artifacts from an 18th-century fort. The ceramics, glassware, metal tools, and architectural hardware span almost the entire range of available items representative of this time period. For the period between 1850 and 1890, the archeological collection is an outstanding representation of material culture from a small urban community (Rome, NY).</p>

	<p>Current State and Related Trends: During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the main elements of the fort were excavated, along with many 19th- and 20th- century features associated with buildings that had been constructed over the ruins. The Fort Stanwix National Monument museum collections, including archives, number approximately 450,000 items pertaining to both the 18th- century fort occupation (1758-1781) and the 19th and 20th century City of Rome, NY (1796-1970). The military collection is comprised of approximately 45,000 objects. The balance of the collection relates to the 19th and 20th century. The fort's collections are in storage at the Marinus Willett Center. The military archeology of the site is primarily documented in the report <i>Casemates and Cannonballs: Archeological Investigations at Fort Stanwix National Monument</i>. Little additional collection research has been done.</p> <p>Based on information in the 2006 Automated National Catalog System database for the park, approximately 33 percent of the collection is in good to excellent condition, 50 percent is in poor to fair condition, and 17 percent of items do not have condition determined.</p> <p>Potential Future Threats: The 2007 Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections shows 90 percent of standards being met in the new facility. This percentage will continue to improve as operations in the new facility are standardized and formal plans are approved. It is imperative that heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in the Marinus Willett Collections Management and Educational Center be consistently maintained to provide the proper environment to preserve and protect the significant museum collections.</p> <p>A security survey and plan need to be completed and the plan implemented to protect objects in exhibits and in storage. Park procedures for accessing and using collections need to be followed to prevent unauthorized access, use, and harm. Information in the Automated National Catalog System database for the park needs to be continually updated for both collection accountability and research purposes, or potential public benefit of the collection will not be realized.</p> <p>Stakeholder Interests: As part of Fort Stanwix NM, the historical and archeological collections have the same stakeholder interests described above.</p> <p>Laws and Policy Guidance: Cultural management activities are guided by NPS Management Policies, DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guideline, and the NPS Museum Handbook.</p> <p>GMP Issues: The interpretation of collections should be broadened, using them to promote collaborative heritage development involving local and regional partners.</p>
Fort Stanwix Reconstruction	<p>Importance: Since the existing Fort Stanwix is a reconstruction completed in 1976, its primary significance lies in its being an interpretive device for enhancing public understanding of an 18th- century earthen fort, whose historical importance is described under the Fort Stanwix Archaeological Site.</p>

	<p>Current State and Related Trends: The reconstructed fort was built on the site of the original Fort Stanwix. The site was established as a national monument in 1935, but fort reconstruction did not commence until 1974, when an archeological study by NPS was completed. The partially reconstructed fort was opened in 1976. The fort consists of an earth and timber-clad, reinforced concrete structure. The wood used for the fort is primarily southern yellow pine and tamarack.</p> <p>Based on the National Park Service’s Facility Condition Index, the fort and the three freestanding buildings inside the fort are generally considered to be in good condition. Only the small guard houses are rated as poor, and the facility management division refurbishes them as necessary.</p> <p>The landscape around the fort, based on the park’s Facility Condition Index, is considered to be in good condition. Much of the area is mowed lawn. The grounds surrounding Fort Stanwix were managed as meadow for several years after the fort first opened. Vegetation was left to grow freely as it may have when the original fort was occupied. Some members of the public saw the uncut grasses as unsightly. More recently, the fort grounds have been mechanically mowed to maintain a lawn. In order to preserve the fort slopes, prevent erosion, and present a well-maintained facility in downtown Rome, the park is experimenting with planting various meadow grasses in selected areas adjacent to the fort and in the vicinity of the Willett Center. The park is not attempting to present an “accurate representation of what once existed there” (<i>NPS Management Policies</i> 5.3.5) because the landscape was indifferently maintained during the period of historical significance.</p> <p>Potential Future Threats: The fort, built of wood (southern yellow pine and tamarack), is over 30 years old and structural decay is becoming more evident. The heating and ventilation system in the fort should be upgraded to prevent mold and mildew from developing in the rooms controlled by the system. Shingle roofs over barracks and log roofs over casemates (and their linings) need to be repaired or replaced to maintain structural integrity or else the interior of the buildings will be threatened.</p> <p>The fort has occasionally been entered by unauthorized persons when the facility was closed to the public. Also, false alarms have occurred when unoccupied. The security system in the fort needs to be upgraded to a newer version to cut down on false alarms and catch intruders in the fort.</p> <p>The landscape around the fort has shown signs of small sink holes and also settling of the berms and counterscarp in the ditch area. Significant damage is also being caused by voles. Some members of the public do not support park experiments to plant grasses, wildflowers, and other species to model a historic meadow landscape.</p> <p>The parade ground area consists of a dirt/sand/stone material that becomes soft during rainstorms. After each rainfall material is washed into the drain in the middle of the parade ground. A harder parade ground surface may be required.</p> <p>Stakeholder Interests: Fort Stanwix NM plays an important role in the Rome community, serving as a focal point for the downtown area. The site is also important to the historical reenactor and living history communities. The fort works cooperatively with Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, Steuben Memorial, Northern Frontier Project, Inc., New York State’s Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the Six Nations, and other partners.</p> <p>Laws and Policy Guidance: Cultural management activities are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guideline.</p> <p>GMP Issues: The park needs to improve overall accessibility at the site, improve vehicular and pedestrian routes to the National Monument, and maintain and preserve the cultural landscape and reconstructed fort.</p>
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1.6 Issues to Be Addressed By the GMP

The following presents a summary of issues and concerns raised by the GMP team and park staff in consultation with numerous public and private entities and individuals, including city, state, and federal agencies and American Indians during the public scoping process. These discussions helped identify the critical issues that must be addressed in the proposed alternatives.

Lack of Properly Defined Boundary

Fort Stanwix National Monument's 1935 enabling legislation authorized the NPS to acquire "out of any donated funds" any tracts of land considered necessary to establish and complete the national monument. The legislation further stated that boundaries were to be formally established by presidential proclamation, but no such proclamation was ever made. The area currently administered by the NPS was apparently determined during the urban renewal process, within the constraints of Rome's street grid. The area transferred to the NPS was large enough to encompass the entire reconstructed fort and outworks and some surrounding buffer space. Action is needed to formalize the monument's boundaries.

Fort Stanwix as a Regional Asset

The National Park Service has the opportunity to become a major partner in shaping the direction, quality, and sustainability of regional heritage development over the coming years in Central/Upstate New York. What is the role of Fort Stanwix in this equation? The City of Rome is approximately 40 miles east of Syracuse, 90 miles west of Albany, a gateway to the Adirondack Mountains, and is proximate to three exits on the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90). Rome is within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and a beneficiary of the state's Erie Canalway Trail, the 348-mile bicycling and hiking route under construction along the canal between Albany and Buffalo. Twenty percent of the U.S. population lives within 300 miles of the site. There are many historic and cultural attractions within the geographic area, most importantly the thematically related Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site. There are extensive opportunities to coordinate programming and interpretation with thematically related sites within the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley and with the Six Nations Confederacy. Also in the larger region are the Baseball Hall of Fame, Turning Stone Casino, Adirondack Mountains, and the North Country National Scenic Trail. What should the National Park Service do to ensure the operational capacity of Fort Stanwix NM in assisting with tying these assets together and to strengthen Fort Stanwix as a strong community partner?

Accessibility

The primary visitor experience at the park is derived through total immersion in the reconstructed fort. Due to lack of accessibility for visitors with disabilities (particularly those with physical impairments) and continued degradation of the fort structure, access opportunities will become more limited. Handicapped accessibility deficiencies have been repeatedly identified in various reports and analyses conducted at Fort Stanwix. Through the Long Range Interpretive Planning process the park has found that the interpretive media is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and National Park Service Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines. The Northeast Regional Office completed a Comprehensive Accessibility Assessment Inventory in 2000 and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation completed an accessibility overview of the site in 2003. Each of these surveys identified the need to improve the overall accessibility within the site. The park has taken steps to implement some of the recommendations; however, a large-scale effort is needed. The parade ground is the primary feature needing attention as it is now loose soil and does not drain well for universal accessibility.

Maintenance/Administration

The maintenance facility located north of the fort is vital to support the park operation, but its continued deterioration and inefficient systems are a drain on park fiscal resources. The park's utilities infrastructure is constantly tested to handle yearlong weather extremes of central New York (winter temperatures regularly as

low as zero degrees Fahrenheit and 153 inches of annual snowfall). The park spends up to \$81,000 per year on utilities – approximately six percent of its current budget. Unless corrective action is taken, the park will continue to put money into an inefficient utility infrastructure and lose operational dollars for an ever-increasing uncontrollable fixed cost. When a new maintenance facility is designed, the park will pursue an upgrade to a more environmentally efficient solution. The park’s administrative offices are presently in space leased from the Rome Historical Society. In recent years, concerns over the cost of this space have been raised. Whether the park will be able to manage the cost of the term of the lease is yet to be determined. Alternative funding strategies are needed.

Wayfinding/Safety

A confusing pattern of streets combined with limited signage makes it difficult for visitors to find the monument. Visitors who park in the parking garage that is designated as visitor parking often find it difficult, and even dangerous, to cross James Street to get to the fort entrance. The goal of the visitor experience is to have the visitor stop at the Willett Center before visiting the fort. Directional and informational signage is not considered adequate.



Figure 2: Fort Stanwix Maintenance Facility.

Part 2. Management Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

This section of the document outlines the proposed policies for managing Fort Stanwix National Monument, describing two alternatives considered before the selection of a preferred alternative. The alternatives presented fulfill the site's purpose as outlined in its enabling legislation. They both provide for resource preservation and visitor use, yet differ in the level and scope to which this is accomplished.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires federal agencies to consider alternative courses of action and the environmental impacts of those alternatives by writing either an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA). *NPS Management Policies 2006* 2.3.1.6 also requires that general management plans consider a range of alternatives. All alternatives, though diverse, should be feasible. If park management is leaning toward one of the alternatives, regulations require that the draft plan identify the preferred alternative for the benefit of the public. Regulations also require that there be a "no action" alternative presented, meaning a direction that would retain the existing status, with no major change in park management philosophy or direction, and no major physical changes. In this draft plan, the two management alternatives represented consist of a "No Action" alternative and a "Preferred Action" alternative.

The planning team considered options and developed the following alternatives in response to public input, the park's legislation, NPS policies, the condition of park resources, the status of existing plans, the park's mission and significance, the park's mission goals, and the planning issues. After examining this information, the team determined that there were few subject areas where visions for the future of the park differed substantially from current practices. However, it became clear that current management practices and conditions could be updated and improved, especially in the areas of interpretive scope, visitor services and facilities, and participation in community and regional partnership initiatives. The Preferred Action alternative suggests specific actions that would upgrade and improve upon the status quo. The potential impacts associated with these actions are considered in the "Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives" section.

Each alternative recognizes the national monument's 13,700 sq.-ft. Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center. It has been named in honor of the fort's second-in-command (1777) Continental Army officer. The facility houses visitor orientation exhibits and audio-visual programming, visitor amenities (e.g. restrooms, sales area), collections storage and workspace, and staff support area. The center is open to the public year-round and is owned and operated by the National Park Service. A separate planning document, with a site plan and environmental assessment, was completed in early 2003, and a Finding of No Significant Impact document was published on the development, siting, and programmatic design of this facility.

2.2 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

2.2.1 Concept

Alternative 1, the No Action alternative, describes current management practices and conditions at Fort Stanwix National Monument. The No Action alternative also provides a baseline against which to measure and evaluate changes proposed in the Preferred Action alternative. Interpretive focus would emphasize modest updating of interpretive media to better reflect the siege story of Fort Stanwix, including causes and effects. Fort Stanwix would physically remain largely in its current condition with emphasis on fort structure adaptive use and continued maintenance of grounds. No further reconstruction of fort elements would be undertaken in favor of

enhanced interpretation. There would be modest community outreach and regional partnership initiatives for coordinative purposes in the areas of improving cultural resources protection, interpretation, visitor services, and tourism development.

2.2.2 Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services

Interpretive Emphasis

The interpretive emphasis at the fort would continue to highlight the siege of Fort Stanwix and fort life with limited allusions to the Burgoyne Campaign and other related sites and activities. Also, interpretation at Fort Stanwix would provide a more complete and accurate interpretation of the experiences of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples at the site as a result of the events that occurred there.

Visitor Orientation

Using directional and informational signage, visitors would be directed to/from the public parking garage on the corner of James and Liberty Streets, as well as adjacent surface parking lots. At the Willett Center they will be oriented to the park mission and its unique history, made aware of program offerings, and directed to the fort itself. Also, at the center, visitors will be presented with choices of enhanced interpretive exhibits and educational programs, which effectively represent themes and perspectives associated with diverse cultural, ethnic, and regional groups that foster an appreciation of their diverse points of view. Basic information on other related historic and cultural sites in the region will also be made available to visitors at the center.

Under the No Action alternative, the park would work with traditionally associated groups and other park partners to continue updating the story of the fort and its national significance.

Interpretive & Educational Programming

The park would continue to emphasize the fort's role in the Revolutionary War and would minimally expand interpretation to emphasize related resources including historic sites such as Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, and other thematically related resources associated with the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley.

Programs in the Willett Center complement those in the fort by offering updated exhibits, a new audio-visual program, and a chance to view museum objects related to Fort Stanwix and the role of archeology in the fort's reconstruction.

The park would continue its efforts to incorporate diverse cultural, ethnic, and regional groups into public programs conducted by the National Park Service. The experience of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples would be more fully and accurately interpreted. The park's ongoing partnership with the Oneida Indian Nation would continue to add credibility and perspective to the interpretation.

The park would expand visitor access to the fort as additional fort spaces become available for interpretive use and as funds permit.

The park would continue to seasonally offer interpretive and educational programming that emphasizes military and civilian life within the fort, utilizing techniques such as costumed interpretation, black powder demonstrations, and static exhibits, as staffing and funding permit.

The park would maintain its current inventory of wayside interpretive exhibits and would retain existing content and current locations of wayside exhibits. Wayside interpretive exhibits would be replaced as needed.

The park would continue to develop curriculum-based education programs with local schools, ensuring that children receive quality educational experiences at Fort Stanwix during their primary and secondary school years.

In addition to NPS-conducted programs, the fort and the Willett Center would be available as a venue for programs conducted by park partners and community groups. Such programs would necessarily reflect the park's mission and themes.

Parking and Circulation

The park has constructed a fully handicapped-accessible Willett Center facility and pathways have been improved where appropriate to improve accessibility.

Under this alternative, the park would make fort structures and pathways compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as feasible.

The park would participate in planning with partners for any redesign of major traffic arteries into downtown, placement of directional signing, and improving safe and functional pedestrian access and circulation.

The park would support efforts to link downtown Rome via hike and bike trail to the New York State Canalway Trail/Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, North Country National Scenic Trail, and the Black River Trail.

2.2.3 Zoning

Overall, the park would continue current resource management, facility management, and preservation practices with minimal improvements, as feasible. The NPS would establish the following zoning districts:

Development Area: This area would accommodate existing or expanded park operational and visitor facilities. This area does not encompass any significant natural or cultural resources related to the purpose of the national monument. The Willett Center is located within the development area and is characterized by contemporary construction within an urban context in visual proximity to the fort. Ideally, the Willett Center serves as the first point of contact for visitors to Fort Stanwix National Monument. During times when carrying capacity might be exceeded, park staff would take appropriate steps to manage visitor flow (e.g. offering alternative programming at other locations in the park).

Gathering Area: A large portion of the green space (mown lawn) at the fort is a valuable community asset in an otherwise developed urban environment. The west lawn, where archeological resources would not be threatened, would continue to be used for large public gatherings and events (e.g. Honor America Days). Such appropriate events and programs serve to remind all citizens of our shared heritage.

Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the fort structure and its immediate environs where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs.

2.2.4 Resource Management

Collections

A collection catalog would be completed.

Archeology

A comprehensive archeological inventory would be completed. The park would protect its archeological resources from illegal excavation.

Ethnographic Resources

The park would complete research to identify and understand the full range of ethnographic resources and traditionally associated groups related to Fort Stanwix, the Northern Frontier, and the Mohawk Valley.

The park would continue to work with traditionally associated groups to define and undertake appropriate management and use of these resources.

Other Research

The park has completed an administrative history and would use that information to seek a revision of the park's National Register of Historic Places documentation. The administrative study provides a comprehensive history

of Fort Stanwix as a colonial and early United States military site, and provides information about the evolution of the site from the time it was decommissioned, through its 20th century designation as a national monument, and up to the present. It also elaborates on the reconstruction of the fort.

The park would continue participating in the National Park Service's Visitor Service Project.¹ The park would undertake an additional visitor use survey in order to measure the effect of the Willett Center on visitor activity, visitor understanding of the park's mission and resources, and visitor impacts on the local and regional economy.

2.2.5 Park Operations

The park would use best management practices, systems, and techniques in support of mission-related goals and efficient, effective, and accountable operations.

Fort Structures

The park would rehabilitate features of the reconstructed fort identified in the *List of Classified Structures* as being in fair or poor condition (e.g. West Casement, Sentry Boxes, and Tunnel) and would maintain those assessed as being in good condition through a preventive maintenance program. No further reconstruction of fort features would be proposed. Fire detection and suppression systems would be installed in areas where open flame is used in interpretive demonstrations.

With removal of administrative offices and collections from the fort to the park headquarters at the Rome Historical Society and to the Willett Center, the vacated spaces would be adapted for public access and interpretation as funding becomes available. Redevelopment of these areas would be guided by the Long Range Interpretive Plan.

Other space within the fort would continue to be used for such functions as staff working space, storage of interpretive materials and secure storage for the park's black powder magazine. Tunnels beneath the reconstructed fort would require minor rehabilitation to be continually available for these support functions.

Administrative Facilities

Through a lease with the Rome Historical Society, park headquarters has been moved from the fort to the adjacent Rome Historical Society building (the former Post Office). Contingent upon funding, leasing off-site administrative facilities would continue.

Facility Management

The park would make minor interior improvements as necessary to the existing facility management building to improve operational efficiency, including fort utility improvements.

Staffing

The park would maintain the number and type of park staff to continue current levels of visitor programming and resource management at the fort and the Willett Center.

The park, as a member of NPS's Upstate New York Sub-cluster, would continue to participate in an administrative resources sharing program among NPS units for such functions as human resources management and purchasing. Administrative positions at the park would be structured with this inter-park network in mind.

Fort Stanwix has a dedicated corps of volunteers who commit a significant number of hours in support of park programs and operations. The park would expand the current corps of volunteers in order to support the increased level of visitor programming and services at the Willett Center.

¹ The National Park Service's Visitor Services Project (VSP) is part of a larger social science research program focused on learning more about the National Park Service's visitors and the impact of national park units on their neighboring communities. The Visitor Services Project is undertaken in cooperation with the University of Idaho. The information collected from visitor surveys can influence and contribute to improving park interpretive and educational programming, park facilities, operations, and planning.

2.2.6 Partnerships and Cooperative Actions

Fort Stanwix National Monument has the support of many partners. The National Park Service would strengthen and formalize these relationships to provide better coordination of shared resource protection, interpretive, educational, and tourism activities that support the park mission of Fort Stanwix National Monument.

2.2.7 Park Boundary

Under this alternative, Fort Stanwix NM would seek legislation to formalize the park's existing boundary as required under the park's enabling legislation. The proposed boundary would, at a minimum, define the fort site as the 16 acres bounded by James Street, East Park Street, Black River Boulevard, and Erie Boulevard in Rome, New York. The lands within this boundary are owned by the federal government and administered by the National Park Service. In effect, this legal boundary clarification would help protect the archeological and historic resources specifically and immediately associated with the national monument. The park will confer with the American Battlefield Protection Program before formalizing the boundary.

2.2.8 Legislative Requirements

Fort Stanwix NM would require a legislative amendment to formalize its boundary.

2.2.9 Costs

Two categories of costs are estimated for each alternative: one-time capital and annual staff and operations. These figures are for planning and comparison purposes only. They represent gross costs and are in 2007 dollars. Actual funding for these potential costs is subject to NPS budget priorities and available funds.

One-time capital costs include the costs to repair and rehabilitate the historic forts and landscape, make infrastructure upgrades, and undertake associated research and planning. These actions are dependent upon the availability of funding and would be phased over the life of the plan. Annual operations and periodic costs are the annual cost to operate Fort Stanwix National Monument. This figure includes the cost of periodic maintenance for structures and landscapes, such as replacement roofs, heaters, and other durable systems.

The one-time capital costs for Alternative 1 are projected to range from approximately \$533,000 to \$639,600 (20 percent range from base estimate). The costs under this alternative are associated primarily with fort rehabilitation projects, developing a new audio-visual program, and upgrading exhibits and signage.

Under this alternative, annual operations and periodic costs would range from \$1,084,220 to \$1,301,064. These costs would cover approximately 17.94 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees and well as basic operational costs (20 percent of total). These figures are held constant for the purposes of comparison with other alternatives and are not meant to imply that there could be no future growth in park staff should this alternative be selected.

Cost figures are intended only to provide an estimate of the relative costs of alternatives. NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines were used to develop the costs to the extent possible, but the estimates should not be used for budgeting purposes. Specific costs will be determined in subsequent, more detailed planning and design exercises. Actual costs to the NPS will vary depending on if and when the actions are implemented and on contributions by partners and volunteers. The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative is selected, will depend on future NPS funding and servicewide priorities. The approval of a GMP does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

Figure 3: Alternative 1 – No Action



2.3 Alternative 2: The Preferred Action Alternative

2.3.1 Concept

Alternative 2, the Preferred Action alternative, would broaden interpretation to emphasize the role of Fort Stanwix in the greater Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regional context; expand its interpretation of the Six Nations Confederacy; and, within available funding and authority, foster programmatic coordination as well as technical assistance to thematically related sites within the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley. Fort Stanwix NM would also use existing authorities to increase its capacity to pursue community outreach and regional partnership initiatives, particularly in seeking hike and bike trail linkages or shuttle vehicle connections with related sites. Efforts would be made to modify a limited part of the lawn area near the reconstructed fort to establish landscape conditions, using native grasses and other vegetation more evocative (not a reconstruction) of the historic meadow landscape while still maintaining sufficient lawn area to support community events. Certain fort structures that have not been reconstructed due to fiscal constraints and that are important to interpreting the history at Fort Stanwix, such as the Ravelin, may be reconstructed if it is feasible, fully funded by outside sources, and meets with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment for Historic Structures and applicable Section 106 compliance requirements.

As in Alternative 1, vacated fort spaces would be adapted for public use, relying on enhanced interpretation to educate visitors and provide for the essential comprehension of the fort's original appearance.

2.3.2 Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services

Interpretive Emphasis

Under this alternative, the interpretive emphasis would be broadened to place Fort Stanwix in the context of the critical social, political, and military events that took place within the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regions of the state of New York from 1754 through 1792 (from the French and Indian War through the American Revolution and after). In partnering with other thematically related properties, such as Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, the National Park Service would make visitors aware of other interpretive and educational opportunities that would enrich their visitor experience in the region and enhance their understanding and appreciation of the significance of Fort Stanwix NM. Also, interpretation at Fort Stanwix would provide a more complete and accurate interpretation of the experiences of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples at the site as a result of the events that occurred there.

Visitor Orientation

This alternative proposes using directional and informational signage to direct visitors to the Willett Center where they would be oriented to the park, made aware of program offerings, and directed to the fort itself.

Working with related American Indian tribes and other park partners, the park would develop a new regional orientation film that updates the story of the fort, but also elaborates on its role in the Mohawk Valley and describes its national significance. The film would also broaden understanding of related sites in the region.

The fort would develop an expanded webpage to allow park visitors to have access to orientation materials about the fort and information about related sites in the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley area.

Interpretive and Educational Programming

Under this alternative, the park would expand interpretation to emphasize the relationships between the fort and Oriskany Battlefield, French and Indian War, the Treaties of Fort Stanwix, and related thematic resources including interpretive linkages to historic sites and other resources associated with the Mohawk Valley. Visitors would be presented with choices of new interpretive exhibits and educational programs, which effectively

represent themes and perspectives associated with diverse cultural, ethnic, and regional groups and that foster an appreciation of their points of view. The experience of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples would be more fully and accurately interpreted. Enhanced and new interpretive media at the fort and in the Willett Center would be employed to more fully convey an understanding of non-reconstructed features.

Interpretive improvements at Fort Stanwix would ensure that visitors are offered more activity choices. They would be able to select from a variety of interpretive techniques and media including wayside exhibits, museum exhibits, audio-visual programs, publications, living history programs, guided and self-guided tours, and possibly interactive or multi-sensory experiences.

The park would explore the use of current and emerging sustainable methods and technologies to deliver interpretive, educational, and orientation programs to help visitors experience parks and resources in new ways.

The park would work with local and regional partners, such as the City of Rome, Oriskany Battlefield, State of New York, and others to upgrade existing interpretive content and provide additional outdoor wayside exhibits that are accurate, educational, and interactive.

As in Alternative 1, the park would initiate the following actions. The park would expand visitor access to the fort as additional fort structures, formerly used for administrative or other purposes, became available for interpretive use. Programs in the center would complement those in the fort by offering visitors up-to-date exhibits, a new audio-visual program, and a chance to explore and research the museum objects related to Fort Stanwix and the role of archeology in the fort's reconstruction. The park would continue to develop curriculum-based education programs with local schools, ensuring that children receive quality educational experiences at Fort Stanwix during their primary and secondary school years. In addition to NPS-conducted programs, the fort and the Willett Center would be available as a venue for programs conducted by park partners and community groups. Such programs would necessarily reflect the park's mission and themes.

Parking and Circulation

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes the following actions. Working with park partners and local, state, and federal transportation agencies, the park would seek to redesign pedestrian and bicycle access through major downtown traffic arteries, develop better directional signing, and improve safe and functional pedestrian access for visitors to the park. The park will continue to work with public and private parking lot owners to meet the park needs of visitors to the fort. Fort structures and pathways would also be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as feasible. The park would work to establish a hike and bike linkage with downtown and the New York State Canalway Trail/Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

This alternative proposes traffic calming actions to foster public safety at street crossings, in collaboration with municipal government.

Under this alternative, the park would explore with the State of New York, Oneida County, the City of Rome, the North Country National Scenic Trail, the Black River Trail, Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor, Northern Frontier, Inc., and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the creation of physical links, such as hiking and bike trails or alternative fuel shuttle vehicle service to Oriskany Battlefield and other thematically related sites. State scenic byway connections would also be studied.

2.3.3 Zones

The NPS would establish the following management areas (same as Alternative 1 except for enlargement of the Fort Experience Area to allow for a more historically evocative landscape adjacent to the fort):

Development Area: This area would accommodate existing or expanded park operational and visitor facilities. The Willett Center is located within the development area and is characterized by contemporary construction within an urban context in visual proximity to the fort. Ideally, the Willett Center serves as the first point of contact for visitors to Fort Stanwix National Monument. During times when carrying capacity might be exceeded, park staff would take appropriate steps to manage visitor flow (e.g. offering alternative programming at other locations in the park).

Gathering Area: A large portion of the green space (mown lawn) at the fort is a valuable community asset in an otherwise developed urban environment. The west lawn, where archeological resources would not be threatened, would continue to be used for large public gatherings and events (e.g. Honor America Days). Such appropriate events and programs serve to remind all citizens of our shared heritage.

Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the fort and its immediate environs where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs. Under this alternative, to help evoke a greater sense of the historic landscape, cultural landscape studies would be undertaken to establish appropriate meadow grasses and wildflowers in select but limited areas adjacent to the fort.

2.3.4 Resource Management

Fort Structures

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. The park would rehabilitate features of the reconstructed fort identified in the *List of Classified Structures* as being in fair or poor condition (e.g. West Casement, Sentry Boxes, and Tunnel) and would maintain those assessed as being in good condition through a preventive maintenance program. With recent removal of all administrative offices and the collections from the fort to the park headquarters at the Rome Historical Society building and to the Willett Center, the vacated spaces would be adapted for public access and interpretation. Redevelopment of these areas would be guided by the Long Range Interpretive Plan. Fire detection and suppression systems would be installed where open flame is used in interpretive demonstrations; interpretive material and black powder storage would continue; and minor tunnel rehabilitation would be undertaken to support these functions. Certain fort structures that have not been reconstructed and that are important to interpreting the history at Fort Stanwix, such as the Ravelin, may be reconstructed if it is feasible, fully funded by outside sources, and meets with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment for Historic Structures and applicable Section 106 compliance requirements.

Collections Management

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. A collection catalog would be completed.

Archeology

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. A comprehensive archeological inventory would be completed. The park would protect its archeological resources from future excavation.

Ethnographic Resources

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. Park would complete research to identify and understand the full range of ethnographic resources and traditionally associated groups related to Fort Stanwix, the Northern Frontier, and the Mohawk Valley. The park would continue to work with traditionally associated groups to define and undertake appropriate management of these resources.

Other Research

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes the following. The park has completed an administrative history and would seek a revision of the park's National Register of Historic Places documentation. The administrative study provides a comprehensive history of Fort Stanwix as a colonial military site, and provides information

about the evolution of the site from the time it was decommissioned through its 20th century designation as a national monument, and up to the present. It also elaborates on the reconstruction of the fort. The park would continue participating in the National Park Service's annual Visitor Service Project² and would undertake an additional visitor use survey in order to measure the effect of the Willett Center on visitor activity, visitor understanding of the park's mission and resources, and visitor impacts on the local and regional economy.

This alternative proposes preparation of a cultural landscape treatment plan to address the appropriate vegetative treatment of the landscape near the reconstructed fort to provide a more historically evocative meadow setting. Sufficient lawn area would be maintained to support community events. The public would have the opportunity to review and comment on proposed treatment recommendations.

2.3.5 Park Operations

The park would use best management practices, systems, and techniques in support of mission-related goals and efficient, effective, and accountable operations.

Administrative Facilities

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. Through a lease with the Rome Historical Society, park headquarters has been moved from the fort to the adjacent Rome Historical Society building (the former Post Office). Leasing off-site administrative facilities would continue.

Facility Management

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. The park would make interior improvements as necessary to the existing facility management building to improve operational efficiency.

Staffing

Increased staffing would be required in order to implement this alternative which calls for a broadened interpretation of the fort and its relationship to the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley history, as well as more partnership activities and technical assistance capability. Year-round visitor programming would require increased staffing. In order to facilitate expanded interpretation and educational programs at Fort Stanwix, particularly in its relationship to the surrounding region, a historian and two park rangers need to be added to the staff. The historian would conduct scholarly research and oversee contracted services. Ranger positions would help encourage partnerships to foster connections between the park and related sites increase educational programming, and expand the role of "living history" volunteers. A half-time museum aide should be added at the Willett Center to provide needed support for visitor services. In order to cope with increased visitation throughout the year and expanded maintenance needs, a half-time administrative technician and a full-time maintenance worker need to be added to the staff. Increased staffing would be dependent on NPS budget priorities and available funding.

The park, as a member of the National Park Service's Upstate New York Sub-cluster, would continue to participate in an administrative resources sharing program among NPS units for such functions as human resources management and purchasing. Administrative positions at the park would be structured with this inter-park network in mind.

Fort Stanwix has a dedicated corps of volunteers, many from the Oneida Indian Nation, which commits a significant number of hours in support of park programs and operations. Under this alternative, the park would expand the corps of volunteers in order to offer expanded and enhanced visitor programming and services to the visiting public. The park would seek to define volunteer job descriptions beyond "living history" in the fort to

² The National Park Service's Visitor Services Project (VSP) is part of a larger social science research program focused on learning more about the National Park Service's visitors and the impact of national park units on their neighboring communities. The Visitor Services Project is undertaken in cooperation with the University of Idaho. The information collected from visitor surveys can influence and contribute to improving park interpretive and educational programming, park facilities, operations, and planning.

general visitor service and interpretation at the Willett Center.

2.3.6 Partnerships and Cooperative Actions

As in Alternative 1, the National Park Service would strengthen and formalize partnerships to provide better coordination for shared interpretive, educational, and tourism activities. Additionally, this alternative would, in light of a number of regional, heritage development initiatives, propose that the park seek new partnerships and management agreements with thematically related sites in the region and with other organizations that can help improve the regional visitor experience and economic health. The enhancement of regional program coordination as well as the park's community outreach and provision of technical assistance services in resource protection, interpretation, and visitor services would be essential.

2.3.7 Park Boundary

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes that Fort Stanwix NM pursue legislation to formalize the park's existing boundary as required under the park's enabling legislation. The proposed boundary legislation would, at a minimum, define the fort site as the 16 acres bounded by James Street, East Park Street, Black River Boulevard, and Erie Boulevard in Rome, New York. The lands within this boundary are owned by the federal government and administered by the National Park Service. In effect, this legal boundary clarification would help protect the archeological and historic resources specifically and immediately associated with the national monument. The park will confer with the American Battlefield Protection Program before formalizing the boundary. The park may explore the feasibility of a future boundary adjustment and agreements with other entities to include key related sites within the national park system or to cooperatively manage them. Sites might include the Carrying Place landings, Oriskany Battlefield, and other associated sites.

2.3.8 Legislative Requirements

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes that Fort Stanwix National Monument seek a legislative amendment to formalize its boundary.

2.3.9 Costs

Two categories of costs are estimated for each alternative: one-time capital and annual staff and operations. These figures are for planning and comparison purposes only. They represent gross costs and are in 2007 dollars. Funding for all improvements would be subject to NPS budget priorities and available funds.

One-time capital costs include the cost to repair and rehabilitate the historic fort and landscape, make infrastructure upgrades, and the associated research and planning. Annual operations and periodic costs are the annual cost to operate Fort Stanwix National Monument.

The one-time capital costs for Alternative 2 are projected to range from approximately \$1,243,000 to \$1,491,600 (range is 20 percent above base estimate). The construction costs under this alternative are associated primarily with cultural resource projects, developing a new audio-visual program, and upgrading exhibits and signage. Planning and research activities include cultural resource projects, a visitor services project, accessibility plan, visitor circulation and signage plan, and the Stanwix-Oriskany Trail.

Annual operations and periodic costs associated with this management alternative would range from \$1,446,437 to \$1,735,724. Under this alternative staff would be approximately 22.94 full time equivalent employees (FTE) and would account for 80 percent of the operations and periodic costs budget. Additions to park staff would include a historian (1 FTE), two park rangers (2 FTE), one maintenance worker (1 FTE), one museum aide (.5 FTE), and one administrative technician (.5 FTE).

The cost figures shown here and throughout the plan are intended only to provide an estimate of the relative costs of alternatives. NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines were used to develop the costs to the extent

possible, but the estimates should not be used for budgeting purposes. Specific costs will be determined in subsequent, more detailed planning and design exercises. Actual costs to the NPS will vary depending on if and when the actions are implemented and on contributions by partners and volunteers. The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative is selected, will depend on future NPS funding and servicewide priorities. The approval of a GMP does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

Figure 4: Alternative 2 - Preferred Action



2.4 Alternatives Eliminated from Consideration

Expand Fort Boundary to Include Oriskany Battlefield

The National Park Service considered but deferred supporting a proposal that would have recommended inclusion of Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site within the boundary of Fort Stanwix National Monument. The study did not find it feasible at the time to include Oriskany in the national park system because of New York State's interest in continuing to manage the battlefield site. The park will continue to explore with New York State officials the feasibility of a future boundary adjustment and agreements to manage the site cooperatively or include the site in the national park system. Fort Stanwix NM and Oriskany Battlefield have entered into a cooperative management agreement that encourages coordinated programming, interpretation, and publicity. Federal legislation {Section 802(a) of Public Law 105-391} authorizes the National Park Service to enter into mutually beneficial agreements with state and/or local governmental agencies for cooperative management purposes.

Complete Reconstruction of the Fort

Fort Stanwix was intended to be a complete and accurate reconstruction, based on the fullest possible documentary and archeological investigation. Constraints of time and money caused some elements of the reconstruction to be deferred during what became the first phase. A second phase of construction in 1978 was intended to complete the missing elements, but insufficient funding forced some construction to be deferred. As an interim measure to completing reconstruction of missing elements, it may be feasible to use interpretation media to convey adequate understanding and appreciation of these elements. Reconstruction of limited features could be considered if funding is secured from an outside source. Reconstruction of limited features could be considered if funding is secured from an outside source and it meets with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment for Historic Structures and applicable Section 106 compliance requirements.

2.5 Summary of Alternatives

	Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative	Alternative 2 – The Preferred Action Alternative
<i>Concept</i>	The No Action alternative describes current management practices and conditions at Fort Stanwix National Monument. Current management practices and conditions would remain largely unchanged if this alternative were selected. The No Action alternative provides a baseline against which to measure and evaluate changes proposed in action alternatives.	The National Park Service would broaden interpretation to emphasize the role of Fort Stanwix in the greater Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regional context; expand its interpretation of the Six Nations; and, within available funding and authority, foster programmatic coordination as well as technical assistance to thematically-related sites within the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley.
Interpretation, Education and Visitor Services		
<i>Interpretive Emphasis</i>	Improve interpretation of the Six Nations and American Indian experience at Fort Stanwix.	
	The interpretive emphasis at the fort would continue to highlight the siege of Fort Stanwix and fort life with limited allusions to the Burgoyne Campaign and other related regional sites and activities. Also, interpretation at Fort Stanwix would provide a more complete and accurate interpretation of the experiences of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples at the site and as a result of the events that occurred there.	Interpretive emphasis would be placed on the role of Fort Stanwix in the influential social, political, and military events that took place in the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley region of New York from 1758 through 1800. Interpretation at Fort Stanwix would provide a more complete and accurate interpretation of the experiences of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples at the site and as a result of the events that occurred there.
<i>Visitor Orientation</i>	Directional and informational signage directs visitors to/from Willett Center, parking, etc.	
	Primarily oriented toward fort's history and local context. New orientation film would reflect this focus.	Expanded emphasis placing fort in regional context and including more information on regional partners' sites / themes / programs. New orientation film would reflect this focus. Park would develop expanded webpage to provide visitor orientation and regional linkages.
<i>Interpretive and Educational Programming</i>	Continue to seasonally offer interpretive and educational programming that emphasizes military life within the fort using techniques like costumed interpretation, black powder demonstrations, and static exhibits. Expand visitor access and interpretive opportunities at the fort through adaptive re-use of spaces formerly used for offices and collections storage. Continue efforts to incorporate diverse cultural, ethnic, and regional groups into NPS-conducted public programs. Continue to develop curriculum-based education programs with local schools.	
	Maintain current inventory of wayside exhibits and current content, and replace as needed.	Upgrade wayside exhibits and as appropriate provide new interpretive media at the fort and on the site to enhance visitor understanding of both old and new interpretive stories. The park would work with partners to improve and expand their programs, provide for coordinated interpretation, and publicize programs. Programs in the center would complement those in the fort by offering up-to-date exhibits, a new audio-visual program, and an opportunity to explore and research the museum objects related to Fort Stanwix and the role of archeology in the fort's reconstruction. In addition to NPS programs, the fort and Willett Center would be available for those conducted by programmatic partners (such programs must be consistent with park mission).

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative		Alternative 2 – The Preferred Action Alternative
<i>Parking & Circulation</i>	<p>Participate in planning for any redesign of local traffic arteries and signage into downtown, and to improve pedestrian circulation and access.</p> <p>Make fort and pathways compliant with ADA and Rehabilitation Act, as feasible.</p> <p>Link to downtown and NY State Canalway Trail / Erie Canalway NHC, and others with hiking and bike trail.</p>	<p>Work with other partners to provide traffic calming measures for adjacent streets.</p> <p>Explore with partners developing trail links or shuttle services to Oriskany Battlefield and other related sites.</p> <p>Pursue scenic byway connections.</p>
Management Areas		
	<p>The NPS would establish the following management areas:</p> <p>Development Area: This area would accommodate park operational and visitor facilities (e.g. facility management building).</p> <p>Gathering Area: A portion of the green space at the fort is a valuable community asset and would continue to be used for large public gatherings and events.</p>	
	<p>Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the structure of the fort where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs.</p>	<p>Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the structure of the fort where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs. The site would add vegetation evocative of the historic landscape.</p>
Resource Management		
<i>Fort Structures</i>	<p>The NPS would rehabilitate features of the reconstructed fort identified in the List of Classified Structures as being in fair or poor condition and would maintain them in good condition through a preventive maintenance program.</p> <p>Fort spaces formerly used for administrative or other purposes would be used for interpretive opportunities.</p>	
		<p>Limited fort structures, such as the Ravelin, may be reconstructed, if feasible, fully funded by outside sources, and meets with Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties and Section 106 compliance.</p>
<i>Collections</i>	<p>Complete collection catalog.</p>	
<i>Archeology</i>	<p>Undertake comprehensive inventory and protect archeological resources from excavation.</p>	
<i>Ethnographic Resources</i>	<p>Park would complete research to identify and understand the full range of ethnographic resources and traditionally associated groups related to Fort Stanwix, the Northern Frontier, and the Mohawk Valley.</p> <p>Continue to work with traditionally associated groups to define and undertake appropriate management and use of these resources.</p>	
<i>Other Research</i>	<p>Park would undertake a revision of National Register documentation.</p> <p>Park would participate in the National Park Service’s Visitor Services Project.</p>	

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative		Alternative 2 – The Preferred Action Alternative
		Park would prepare a cultural landscape treatment plan to address options for making portions of the grounds more evocative of an 18 th century setting.
Park Operations		
<i>General Operations</i>	Use best management practices, systems, and techniques in support of mission-related goals and efficient, effective, and accountable operations.	
<i>Administrative Facilities</i>	Park headquarters would continue to be leased in off-site facility.	
<i>Facility Management</i>	Make minor interior improvements to facility management building as necessary to improve operational efficiency.	
<i>Staffing</i>	Expand the dedicated corps of park volunteers to support visitor services at the Willett Center.	
	Maintain the number and type of park staff to support current levels of programming and resource management at the fort and provide sufficient staff for the Willett Center.	Expand the number and type of park staff to enhance programming at the fort, provide sufficient staff for the Willett Center, and enhance park’s ability to participate in community and regional outreach, build partnerships, and provide technical assistance.
Partnerships/ Cooperative Actions		
	NPS would strengthen and formalize existing relationships to provide better coordination of shared interpretive, educational, and tourism activities that support the park mission. The park would coordinate with traditional groups.	
		<p>NPS would forge new partnerships with public and private entities, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, and organizations including historically and thematically related sites throughout the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley to improve regional visitor experiences and tourism benefits.</p> <p>NPS would use existing authorities to offer technical assistance and help coordinate programming at thematically related sites in the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley region.</p>
Park Boundary		
	The National Park Service would pursue legislation to formalize the park’s existing boundary as required by the park’s enabling legislation. This clarification would help protect the archeological and historic resources specifically and immediately associated with the national monument.	
Legislative Requirements		
	Formalize park boundary through legislative amendment.	
Costs		
<i>Operations</i>	\$1,084,220 – 1,301,064	\$1,446,437 – 1,735,724
<i>One-Time Capital Costs</i>	\$533,000 – 639,000	\$1,243,000 – 1,491,600

Part 3. The Affected Environment

“Affected Environment” is a term employed to describe the area(s) that would be affected or created by the management alternatives under consideration in this plan. This section describes existing conditions within the park and adjacent areas, but places special emphasis on those subjects (such as park facilities and visitor services) most likely to be affected by the proposals described in the management alternatives.

For the purposes of this Final General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FGMP/FEIS), this section addresses historic context, cultural resources, interpretation, education, visitor services, and socioeconomic conditions. As noted below, a number of topics were eliminated from further analysis because they were not affected by the proposed management actions. The topics eliminated from further analysis include: air quality, soils, prime and unique farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, rare, threatened, or endangered species, vegetation, wildlife, topography, hazardous materials, noise, and socially or economically disadvantaged populations.

3.1 Impact Topics Eliminated from Further Analysis

Described below are environmental considerations that were identified but eliminated from further analysis because they were inapplicable to the proposed alternatives or the circumstances of Fort Stanwix National Monument.

3.1.1 Air Quality

Under the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended in 1977 and 1990 (40 CFR 50), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established air quality standards in regard to types of pollutants emitted by internal combustion engines, such as those in aircraft, vehicles, and other sources. These National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are established for six contaminants, referred to as criteria pollutants, and apply to the ambient air (the air that the general public is exposed to every day). These pollutants include carbon monoxide, ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and lead. In addition to these six criteria pollutants, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are a source of concern and are regulated as a precursor to ozone. VOCs are created when fuels or organic waste materials are burned. Most hydrocarbons are presumed to be VOCs in the regulatory context, unless otherwise specified by U.S. EPA.

Areas where the ambient air quality does not meet the NAAQS are said to be non-attainment areas. Areas where the ambient air quality currently meets the national standards are said to be in attainment.

Rome, NY is located in EPA Air Quality Region 2 and New York State Department of Environmental Protection (NYSDEP) Region 6. Region 6 is currently in attainment for all criteria pollutants.

Implementation of either alternative would not have an appreciable effect on the local or regional air quality. Consequently, the effects of the plan on air quality will not be evaluated further.

3.1.2 Soils

There is a potential for slight loss of soil from erosion during archeological surveys. Mitigating measures can prevent this adverse impact. Throughout the site, soils are already highly compacted from building construction, pedestrian traffic, and landscape-related projects. Implementation of either alternative will have negligible impact on soils already disturbed by 19th century development and 20th century urban renewal activities.

3.1.3 Prime and Unique Farmlands

A memorandum dated August 11, 1980, from the Council on Environmental Quality requires federal agencies to assess the effects of their actions on soils classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the U.S. Soil Conservation Service) as *prime* or *unique* farmlands. There are no prime or unique farmlands on the Fort Stanwix National Monument site.

3.1.4 Water Resources/ Wetlands

There are no wetlands on the Fort Stanwix site. There is a single constructed water feature at Fort Stanwix, a branch of Technohat Creek located east of the fort complex, which was built between 1974 and 1976. This creek is a reconstruction of the natural stream that existed during the Revolutionary War period. The creek is typically dry, carrying only storm water runoff and snowmelt.

3.1.5 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires an examination of impacts on floodplains and of the potential risk involved in having facilities within the floodplains. Fort Stanwix is not situated in a floodplain. No effects on floodplains are anticipated from implementation of any of the alternatives.

3.1.6 Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act requires an examination of the impact of federal actions on federally-listed, threatened, or endangered species. National Park Service policy also requires possible impacts on state-listed, threatened, or endangered species and federal candidate species be examined. There are no identified, state or federally-listed rare, threatened, or endangered species on the Fort Stanwix site.

3.1.7 Vegetation

The vegetation within the fort and on the surrounding land is maintained as well-kept lawn and frequently mowed borders. Fort Stanwix has eight different species of trees. All were planted following fort reconstruction, with an approximate total of 114 trees in good condition. The dominant species is white pine, with other species including white cedar, red maple, rock elm, amber maple, and red oak. Other than grasses and associated herbaceous plants such as dandelion and broad-leaf plantain, the only noteworthy forbs, shrubs, or trees on-site are a very small stand of cattail along the dry bed of Technohat Creek (historically located east of the fort). Also, a few trees provide shade around the area of the facility management building. Implementation of any alternative will have a negligible impact on the vegetation associated with the landscaped grounds and the fort.

3.1.8 Wildlife

Few mammals, beyond the occasional deer, have been identified on the fort site. The lack of wildlife is the result of the fort's location. Fort Stanwix is in an urban setting effectively isolated by its well-mowed borders and surrounding urban development from any established native wildlife community. Birds such as rock doves (domestic pigeons), starlings, and house sparrows, typical of urban environments, thrive. As a result, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

3.1.9 Topography

The topography outside the fort complex, which was graded after demolition of the buildings on the site, is fairly level with a gentle downgrade toward the south. In the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, the elevation of the fort entries, parade grounds, and earthworks of the fort complex were returned to presumed historic levels. The scarp and counterscarp form sloping sides of an eight-foot-deep ditch surrounding the rampart walls on the north, west, and south sides. The glacis rises at a 40-degree angle to a height of six feet at its parapet. From the crest of the parapet the earth gradually slopes down to the original ground level within an approximate distance of 75 feet.

The historic topography surrounding the fort, the major feature of which was the embankment above the Mohawk River, could not be duplicated in the reconstruction due to urban development of canals, roads, and buildings. However, the area immediately surrounding the fort has been reconstructed to reflect the

overall sense of the historic topography. According to the Cultural Landscape Inventory, beyond the glacial, the existing topography does not reflect conditions during the period of significance and, therefore, does not contribute to the historic significance of the site. As a result, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

3.1.10 Hazardous Materials

Implementation of any of the alternatives is not expected to result in exposure of any population to hazardous materials. Therefore, this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

3.1.11 Noise

Each alternative could affect noise levels on a site-specific or a local basis. During fort or facility construction, for example, noise levels could be expected to increase in the site vicinity because of vehicular and heavy equipment activity. However, this increase would be short-term. The primary noise source from implementation of the alternatives would be increased automobile traffic associated with visitors and employees. Since the park is located in an urban area, traffic or construction noise would not vary significantly from existing noise levels.

3.1.12 Socially or Economically Disadvantaged Populations

Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to evaluate the impact of proposed actions on socially or economically disadvantaged populations. According to the standards set in this publication, there may be socially or economically disadvantaged populations living within the affected area. However, the alternatives outlined in this document offer the potential to make a positive impact on the city's overall economic health and vitality. Economic impacts from expanded employment and the associated earnings due to implementation of one of the alternatives are expected to be positive, if modest. Furthermore, none of the options would result in disproportionately severe environmental effects (including human health effects, economic effects, and social effects) on minority or low-income communities. The alternatives would not result in air or water pollution that would have an impact on human health. There would not be a significant change in the type or character of land use in the surrounding area that would affect minority or low-income communities.

3.1.13 Energy

Since the GMP has not focused on issues related to new facilities or significant changes to existing facilities, energy issues have not been raised in the GMP. In its operations Fort Stanwix NM will follow NPS policies related to energy conservation.

3.2 Assessment of Resources

Table 3: Contexts of Resource Assessment

Resource	Analytical Context
Cultural Resources	Fort Stanwix NM the Fort and Grounds Archeological and Ethnographic Resources Museum Collection Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier Regions
Visitor Use and Experience	Fort Stanwix NM and Surroundings City of Rome
Public Safety	Points of Entry to Fort and Travel Paths from Parking and Willett Center to Fort Stanwix
Traffic and Parking	Roads adjacent to Fort Stanwix City of Rome
Local Land Use and Planning	City of Rome
Local Economy	Local Recreation and Tourism Industry Downtown Business Base City of Rome Fiscal Status
Social Conditions	Community and Demography
Visual Impacts	Local Viewshed of Fort Stanwix and the Nearby Portions of the City of Rome

3.2.1 Cultural Resources

Prehistoric Context

The prehistoric culture history sequence for Central New York has recently been summarized by Armstrong et al. (2000). Occupation in eastern North America is usually considered to date from the Late Pleistocene period from sometime between 12,000 B.P. and 16,000 B.P. The retreat of the glaciers allowed the development of tundra vegetation which helped to support large herd animals, deer, and migratory birds. The period is characterized by a hunting and gathering adaptation, an association with extinct Pleistocene megafauna, and a specific fluted point technology. While mammoth remains are relatively rare in the Northeast (Ritchie and Funk 1973:6-8), mastodon remains are more numerous. Even so, there is a general lack of direct association of artifacts with these species in the Northeast. Rather, caribou constitute the chief faunal remains associated with Paleo-Indian hunters.

Paleo-Indian sites in the Northeast have chiefly been found on well-elevated locations, the margins of low, swampy ground formerly occupied by lakes and less frequently on only slightly elevated grounds (Ritchie 1980:7). Group size would likely have been small. There is some evidence that Paleo-Indian settlement patterns were technology-based and that raw lithic materials, stone tool-kit refurbishment and big-game food procurement were part of the seasonal rounds of subsistence activities (Armstrong et al. 2000:50-51).

Recent site file checks (Johnson and Donta 1999:10-11) show 46 prehistoric sites in the Rome vicinity. Site types range from Archaic to Woodland. Additionally, work at Fort Stanwix in 1975 encountered a number of prehistoric artifacts (Hanson and Hsu 1975:152). These artifacts included Otter Creek, Brewerton, Lamoka, Fox Creek, and Levanna projectile points. These points range from the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland periods. More specifically, the points represent the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland Periods. This multi-component site had one intact feature: a hearth associated with a Lamoka (Late Archaic) point. The authors suggest that many of the artifacts may have been displaced when the fort was built. In any case, the presence of these artifacts suggests a high probability of finding prehistoric artifacts in intact soil horizons, if such exist, in the project area. The project area location was a known portage area and was likely utilized from the beginning of human

settlement in Central New York.

Historic Context

By the early 17th century, Europeans had begun to explore the interior of New York. Henry Hudson traveled up the Hudson River in 1609. A trading post was established at Fort Orange (Albany) between 1624 and 1626 by the Dutch. The Dutch West India Company's land grant system controlled use of the land, which tended to discourage settlement (Johnson and Donta 1999:15). Even under English control, after 1644, settlement west of the Hudson was slow to develop.

In part, expansion into areas west of the Hudson was hampered by British-French conflicts. These conflicts culminated in the French and Indian War (Seven Years War, 1756-1763), which ended with the French surrendering all of Canada. It was during this war that the British built a series of forts to help protect their supply lines. Fort Stanwix was built in 1758 during the war along a portage known as the Oneida Carrying Place. The portage was a link between Wood Creek and the Mohawk River. The area was an important transportation route and hence a strategic military site. Fort Stanwix' military importance in the French and Indian War was short-lived. By the end of the war, the post was only sparsely manned. The fort assumed limited strategic importance in 1763 due to Pontiac's Rebellion, and later the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix was signed there.

The most important historical event to take place at Fort Stanwix occurred during the American Revolution. In 1777, an army of British troops attacked the fort on its way to meet up with General Burgoyne's British army in the Hudson River Valley. Americans and Indians defending Fort Stanwix held off the British troops and their allies, thwarting the drive to the Hudson. This victory set the stage for the American victory at Saratoga. The fort was maintained until near the end of the war, when many of the Indians were pushed back to Fort Niagara. The fort was abandoned around 1781 after a devastating fire. Blockhouses were built at the site in 1783. In 1784, the United States negotiated the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, which forced the people of the Six Nations, who allied either with the British or the Americans, to give up much of their land (Johnson and Donta 1999).

Euro-American settlement in the Rome area began after 1785 with the survey of the Oriskany patent. William Livingston and Alida Hoffman acquired a 460-acre parcel which included the site of Fort Stanwix. The parcel was sold to Dominick Lynch who established the settlement of Lynchville (renamed Rome in 1819) (Johnson and Donta 1999).

The village was located at a river portage known as the Oneida Carrying Place, and in 1797 a canal linking Wood Creek and the Mohawk River was completed. The development of water transportation at this time was seen as one of the best ways to improve the transportation infrastructure of a community. The development of agricultural, lumbering, and manufacturing depended upon sending goods to larger regional markets quickly and cheaply. The building and maintenance of canals was viewed as cheaper than construction and maintenance of land transportation systems. Improved transportation routes moved goods out to wider markets and moved more settlers into an area. The subsequent digging of the Erie Canal widened the ability of Rome to easily reach markets from New York City to the Great Lakes (Johnson and Donta 1999).

Canals had a constant depth and tried to maintain a minimal flow of water. Changes of elevation were handled with locks. The use of locks also permitted the waterway to cross natural barriers (Larkin 1998). The Erie Canal, for instance, overcame a 565-foot difference in elevation between Albany and Lake Erie with 83 locks. Completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 helped spur population growth in communities along the canal route (Larkin 1998:21-27). Rome was located about a mile north of the original canal,

and was connected to it when the canal was realigned. This canal was later relocated along the southern boundary of the project area, under the current Erie Boulevard.

The Black River Canal was one of the feeder canals built to connect outlying communities to the Erie Canal. This canal passed along the east side of the project area, following modern-day Black River Boulevard. Construction on this canal began in 1838 and was not completed until 1855, at a cost of \$3,157,296. This canal connected to the Erie at Rome, and followed the Black River through Carthage, Watertown, and thence to Lake Ontario.

The problem with the feeder canals was that the mainline (i.e. Erie Canal) was already built in the most cost effective location. The Genesee Valley Canal, for instance, had to overcome a 1,128-foot elevation difference over its short 107-mile length. The Black River Canal averaged 15 locks per five miles of canal, compared to the Erie Canal's one lock per five miles of canal. Washouts, however, were one of the biggest problems on the Black River Canal. The numerous washouts were expensive to repair and held up shipping (Larkin 1998:65-71). While the canal probably never made much, if any, profit, it did maintain some viability and remained open until 1924. This was the longest that any of the feeder canals, not incorporated into the New York State Barge Canal System, remained operating (Larkin 1998:65-71).

The Syracuse and Utica Railroad began operation in Rome in 1839. When the New York Central Railroad was formed from several companies in 1853, a line connecting Albany and Buffalo ran through Rome. The railroads soon dominated passenger and cargo traffic through the area, with the Erie Canal still hauling a substantial amount of cargo (Johnson and Donta 1999).

Euro-American development in the first half of the 19th century in Rome mirrored the development experienced throughout Central New York. First, there was an influx of settlers, with a concentration on a general agriculture and the lumber industry as the forests were cleared for agriculture. Similarly, one of the first concerns of the settlers was the development of the transportation infrastructure. Improved transportation meant that more settlers could reach the area and farmers could begin growing crops for regional markets (Johnson and Donta 1999).

The site of Fort Stanwix became the focus for Rome's industrial, commercial, and residential development. The fort site was close to both the Erie and Black River Canals. The New York Central Railroad crossed the canals near the site. The fort site itself was a mixed residential and commercial district throughout the 19th century. Gradually evidence of the fort disappeared under city development. In 1802, the earthworks were still standing. In 1815, the blockhouse for military stores was still standing, and the northeast bastion was used as the town dump. By 1830, the fort site had been leveled (Johnson and Donta 1999:26-27).

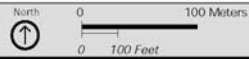
Commercial development in the project area was extensive. The 1907 New Century Atlas of Oneida County and Sanborn maps from 1884, 1899, and 1924 indicate commercial buildings lining each of the streets in this area. Uses for these map-documented structures ranged from stores, hotels, theaters, an express office, a harness shop, a warehouse, a boys club, and a drug store. Extensive development seems to have occurred in the interior of the lots, as well as on the street front. Remains of some, or all, of these structures are probably extant on the site. It is also possible that remains of shaft features such as privies, wells or cisterns also exist in these areas. It is also probable that intact surfaces survive in some locations, opening the possibility of intact prehistoric archaeological sites as well as historic sheet midden deposits in these areas.

Figure 5: Fort Stanwix NM and the City of Rome, New York



Fort Stanwix and the City of Rome, New York

Fort Stanwix National Monument
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



Draft General Management Plan
November 2005

At the time of the site's designation as a national monument in 1935, little was believed to physically remain of Fort Stanwix. In 1965, Colonel J. Duncan Campbell completed test excavations at the fort site for the Rome Urban Renewal Agency and found that substantial parts of the fort survived below ground

(Campbell 1965). The artifacts uncovered by Campbell are currently held by the Rome Historical Society and could be made available for loan to the park if appropriate exhibit space becomes available.

The reconstructed fort is based on extensive archeological and historical research. Between 1970 and 1973, a National Park Service archeological team uncovered the main elements of the fort, which informed the fort's reconstruction over subsequent years. The archeological team also excavated 19th and 20th century features associated with buildings and features that had been constructed over the ruins (Hanson and Hsu 1975).

Significant archeological resources within the footprint of, and related to, Fort Stanwix were recovered and removed prior to reconstruction. Hanson and Hsu estimated that approximately 33 percent of the main fort site was excavated prior to reconstruction, 15 percent of which had been disturbed in the 19th and 20th centuries. They also estimate that 13 percent more of the site was disturbed in unexcavated areas (Hanson and Hsu 1975). It is believed that few unexcavated fort features survived the reconstruction process (Craig Davis, personal communication). Team archeologists continued salvage archeology during 1974 and 1975 while the fort was being rebuilt.

During early archeological excavations, a hearth foundation was identified. The one hearth is preserved in situ as an exhibit in the westernmost room of the North Casemate. It is the only remaining archeological feature to be incorporated within the reconstructed fort.

The grounds of Fort Stanwix National Monument have potential for containing additional archeological resources relating to the fort and 19th century Rome, NY (Johnson and Donta 1999; Auwaerter and Uschold 2000; and *National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory 1999*). In particular, a number of burial sites have been found in the vicinity of the fort. The burials were located in an arc from James Street, just west of the fort, to St. Peter's Church parking lot and the National Park Service facility management building, northwest of the fort. Those human remains uncovered along James Street and near the facility management building in the 1970s have been judged to be of European origin. The James Street burials were re-interred in the nearby Tomb of the Revolutionary War Soldier. Additional burials could still exist in the area.

Archeological background studies and field testing were done by the NPS between 1999 and 2003 to address the potential for archeological resources at a number of locations under preliminary consideration as places to construct the Willett Center. Significant archeological resources were found in the northern portion of the fort grounds, but these are situated a distance from the Willet Center site, southwest of the fort.

Historic Structures, Buildings, and Cultural Landscape

The existing National Register listing clearly recognizes that the reconstructed Fort structure does not have integrity as defined by the National Register, although the site itself is considered an historic resource and is managed as one. The existing reconstructed Fort Stanwix is an earth and timber-clad reinforced concrete structure that replicates the historic fort as it may have appeared in 1777. Located on the site of the historic fort, the reconstruction contains an original feature: a brick hearth. The central part of the fort is a square with a side length of 200 feet. At each corner, there are timber and earth pentagonal bastions with flanks of 36 feet and faces of 90 feet. With these elements, the overall dimensions of the fort, from bastion tip to bastion tip, is 330 feet. Outside the fort structure, fort features are covered in turf. The outer edges of the fort on the north, south, and west sides are composed of a berm followed by a ditch, a parapet, a low palisade fence, and a glacis. The glacis is the low, gently sloping outermost earthwork, the outer edges of which are almost imperceptible. The interior of the fort has three

freestanding wood buildings surrounding the parade grounds, along with frame casemates that are built into the four outer earthen walls.

The site outside the glacis is primarily lawn, with deciduous trees lining North James Street and a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs north of the fort to screen the facility management building and other buildings north of the site. A footpath loops around the site, and signs mark the entrances on the south and east sides. A reconstructed water feature, the branch of Technohat Creek, is east of the fort. The topography outside of the fort complex, which was graded after demolition of the buildings on the site, is fairly level with a gentle down-grade toward the south.

In the National Register of Historic Places nomination, the recorded period of significance for Fort Stanwix National Monument is 1758 to 1781. It was in 1758 that the British built the fort and in 1781 that the Americans withdrew permanent garrison. The property is listed as being historically significant under National Register Criterion A (association with an important event), primarily for its association with the American Revolution as the site of Fort Stanwix.

The reconstructed fort surrounds three freestanding buildings and is made up of the following structures and features: the north building of the East Casemate, the North Casemate, the East Barracks, the east building of the South Casemate, the west building of the South Casemate, the south building of the East Casemate, the Southwest Bombproof, the Storehouse, the West Barracks, the West Casemate, the Sentry Boxes, Bastions, Bridges, Cannons, Curtain Walls, the Ditch, the Flagstaff, the Glacis, the Parade Ground, Pickets, Sentry Boxes, and the Whipping Post. Located within the reconstructed fort, there is an original feature -- the foundation of a brick hearth.

The structures which have not been reconstructed are the following: the Northwest Bombproof, the Northeast Bombproof, the Headquarters, the Guard House, the Ravelin, the Southeast Bombproof (Bake House), the Necessary, the Sally Port, and its Redoubt.

The existing National Register listing clearly recognizes that the landscape of this property does not have integrity as defined by the National Register and should not be considered an historic resource. A final Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Fort Stanwix National Monument was completed in 2000. The inventory definitively states that Fort Stanwix National Monument contains no landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site. "All of the landscape features are either modern (circulation, buildings, vegetation), non-historic reconstructions (branch of the Technohat Creek), outside the period of significance (setting), or so altered that they no longer convey conditions during the period of significance (topography: embankment above Mohawk River)."

The New York State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred, based on the 1996 List of Classified Structures (LCS) for the park, that there are no National Register-eligible structures or landscape features present because the fort is a reconstruction (National Park Service 1996; New York State Historic Preservation Officer 1996). The only landscape feature identified in the LCS was the reconstructed drainage east of the fort (branch of Technohat Creek).

The fields surrounding Fort Stanwix were managed as meadow for several years after the fort first opened in 1976. That is, grasses were left to grow freely as they may have when the original fort was occupied. Some members of the public saw the uncut grasses as unsightly. More recently, the fort grounds have been mechanically mowed to maintain a lawn with specific areas planted with native grasses to provide a more evocative scene.

Ethnographic Resources

In 1996, Fort Stanwix National Monument initiated an active program of ethnographic resource documentation focused on associations between American Indians and other ethnic or associated groups with ties to Fort Stanwix National Monument and Oriskany Battlefield. National Park Service Management Policies direct attention to park resources that are valued by diverse American populations because of cultural significance established through lengthy, distinctive association. *Director's Order No. 28*, Chapter 10, defines ethnographic resources and sets standards for documentation, protection, and preservation. Other relevant sources include the National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 38, "Traditional Cultural Properties" and the *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)*.

Ethnographic resources include cultural and natural landscapes, structures, and artifacts, as well as flora and fauna that are significant to the contemporary lives and heritage of an American population. Identification and assessment of ethnographic resources focuses on the values and characteristics assigned to them by a distinctive cultural community called a traditionally associated group. The features of ethnographic resources may align, overlap, or conflict with other standards of natural and cultural resource management. Ethnographic resource preservation strategies may align, overlap, or conflict with park enabling legislation, management priorities, and other directives. Consultation with traditionally associated groups is a key to documentation, protection, and preservation of ethnographic resources. Government-to-government communication is mandatory when the traditionally associated group(s) is a federally recognized American Indian tribe.

Fort Stanwix National Monument has been identified as an ethnographic resource important to the Six Nations Confederacy, particularly the Oneida Nation and possibly other Indian tribes (Bilharz and Rae, 1998) (Bilharz, 2002). Members of the Six Nations and other American Indian groups served in and around Fort Stanwix during both the French and Indian War and American Revolutionary War. The site is also important because the Oneida Indians in the 1750s gave permission to the British to build Fort Stanwix. The fort was the site of several treaty signings between the British and Indians, and later between the United States and Indians, that set precedents for land conveyances and Indian relations. In addition, the site is important to the members of other ethnic groups whose ancestors comprised the citizenry or soldiery that fought in the Mohawk Valley during the wars of colonization and independence.

The site of Fort Stanwix NM is also an ethnographic resource of substantial symbolic importance to the members of the Six Nations Confederacy, particularly the Oneida Indians in whose homeland it lies. For the Oneidas, who sustained trading and military relationships with the fort's occupants, the fort site itself is of primary significance. For other traditionally associated Indian tribes, Fort Stanwix is most significant in association with Oriskany Battlefield and the greater Mohawk Valley.

Current management practices at Fort Stanwix National Monument exceed minimum standards for ethnographic resource protection. *A Place of Great Sadness: Mohawk Valley Battlefield Ethnography* (Bilharz and Rae, 1998), which addresses the significance of Oriskany Battlefield to contemporary Iroquois descendants of the combatants, also links the battlefield site, currently under state and private ownership, to Fort Stanwix NM. The National Park Service has completed a supplemental investigation of Mississauga and other non-Iroquois associations with the park and Oriskany Battlefield (Bilharz, 2002). National Park Service-sponsored research has been augmented by information from the Oneida Nation of New York, which conducts its own studies. Aided by these information sources, the park is continuing consultations with federally recognized tribes in the United States to support the park's preservation, interpretive, and visitor outreach efforts.

The park has started to establish communication and relationship protocols with the various Six Nations, particularly the Oneida Nation in whose territory Fort Stanwix was built. Relationships with other groups having affiliations with Fort Stanwix National Monument will be sought when these groups and their affiliations become known.

In May 2002, the National Park Service signed a formal General Agreement with the Oneida Indian Nation of New York to promote mutual cooperation and assistance with resources protection, interpretation, and public relationships. This agreement supplements and reinforces agreements in place between the Oneida Indian Nation and the United States and its departments or bureaus since the early founding of the country, and seeks to maintain the “Covenant Chain” between the two nations. Members of the Oneida Indian Nation have been consulted under the terms of the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act of 1993 to determine if any archeological objects at the fort are important to them. Consultations are continuing, but no collections important to the Oneida have been identified to date.

Museum Collection

Contents of Collection

Fort Stanwix National Monument has a substantial collection of archeological, archival, and historical objects. Each facet of the collection provides an important reference source and an interpretive tool. The collections of Fort Stanwix National Monument are significant cultural resources. The collections are the physical remains and records of excavation from a listed National Register and National Historic Landmark property.

The Fort Stanwix National Monument collections number approximately 450,000 items, pertaining to the 18th-century fort occupation (1758-1781) or the 19th- and 20th-century City of Rome, NY (1796-1970). The military collection (1758-1781) is comprised of approximately 45,000 objects. The balance of the collection relates to the 19th and 20th century. The military archeology of the site is primarily documented in the report *Casemates and Cannonballs: Archeological Investigations at Fort Stanwix National Monument* (Hanson and Hsu 1975).

As the 2002 Collection Management Plan for the park states, the park’s archeological collection is among the most significant set of artifacts from an 18th-century fort in the country. The ceramics, glassware, metal tools, and architectural hardware span almost the entire range of available items representative of this time period. Unique archeological objects in the collection include a grenadier’s match case, a metal bit for cutting bone buttons, and 3rd New York Battalion buttons. The collection provides irreplaceable evidence relating to fort furnishings, living and working areas, and military culture and lifestyles that are not well documented from written records.

According to the park’s 1992 Resources Management Plan, Fort Stanwix National Monument’s 19th- and 20th-century archeological artifacts form a large and well documented collection. For the period 1850 to 1890, it may be the best representation of material culture from a heterogeneous community. As stated in the park’s Collection Management Plan, during the 19th century the site contained the homes of wealthy professionals and laborers living in rooming houses. The diversity of objects indicates the commerce along the Erie Canal and the range of items transported along it.

The park also maintains an archive and library containing thousands of items, mostly secondary documentation. Annually, a steadily increasing number of researchers, ethnographers, authors, and others will utilize these resources. It is projected that usage figures will significantly increase when the Willett Collections Storage Facility and the Library become more readily accessible to the public.

It must be noted that primary resource items must also be considered under the discussion of collections management in order to address the need for their conservation and protection. Security issues require that primary resources be maintained in a controlled setting, while secondary resources can be made more readily available.

Collections Storage: Background and Deficiencies

Approximately 289 items in the fort's collections are on exhibit in the Willett Center. The collections were removed from makeshift storage in the fort's tunnels to the new Willett Center in 2005. Re-housing of the artifacts into acid-free containers is underway. The 2005 Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections shows 90 percent of standards being met in the new facility. This percentage will continue to improve as operations in the new facility are standardized and formal plans are approved.

Conditions for museum storage prior to the opening of the Willett Center did not meet agency standards. Examples of major collection storage area deficiencies that have been corrected include: lack of any fire suppression system; the existence of utility lines and panels that could have resulted in damage to the collections; lack of adequate emergency exits from the facility; excessive temperature and relative humidity damaging the collections; lack of adequate space for equipment to properly store objects and make them more accessible; lack of conservation and research space; and water seepage, dampness, mold, mildew and rot on the walls, floors ceilings and some items in the collection. Several of these listed deficiencies previously posed a threat to employee and visitor health and safety.

3.2.2 Visitor Use and Experience

Visitor use and experience are a function of the interaction between a visitor's expectations, motivations, past experiences, and personality traits and the recreational carrying capacity of a park. Recreational carrying capacity is defined as "a prescribed number and type of people that an area will accommodate given the desired natural/cultural resource conditions, visitor experiences, and management program" (Haas, 2001). The carrying capacity for a park is a function of two human and physical constraints: 1) what is considered to be a crowded condition, given the park's physical and environmental resources and the visitor experience intended by management, and 2) the level of use that a park can sustain without suffering environmental degradation.

Visitor/Recreation Experience
The psychological and physiological response from participating in a particular recreation activity in a specific park setting (Haas, 2001).

Visitation

The current visitation level, including special-use attendees, is approximately 63,000 annually. Nearly three out of four fort visitors reside within 50 miles of the monument, as lesser known or more geographically isolated historic sites like Fort Stanwix NM serve a primarily local visitor market. A study "Impacts of Visitor Spending on the Local Economy: Fort Stanwix National Monument, 2003" (2005) by Michigan State University's Daniel Stynes and Ya-Yen Sun, found that the two largest segments in terms of days spent in the region are overnight visitors staying with friends and relatives or campgrounds in the area (38 percent) and day visitors coming from outside the region (30 percent). Park visitors accounted for 5,100 room nights in area motels in 2003.

On average, park visitors spent \$63 per party per day in the local area. Spending varies considerably across four visitor segments—from \$181 per night for visitors staying in area motels to \$20 per party for local day visitors. Using the National Park Service's Money Generation Model Version 2 (MGM2), the study found that \$1.7 million spent by park visitors generated \$491,000 in direct personal income (wages and salaries) for local residents and supported 33 jobs in tourism-related businesses.

The Willett Center enhances the visitor experience by improving the opportunities to interpret the themes of significance and the archeological collection and to educate a more widely diverse public through improved programming, while linking to related sites in the region. On special occasions, higher levels of visitation, such as during group visits, special events and peak seasonal periods of visitation, have conflicted to some extent with other fort operations and may have diminished visitor experience. Administrative functions have been moved to the Rome Historical Society building, which has helped ameliorate this situation.

Fort Stanwix NM has forged significant partnerships with related heritage entities. They include Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, which is owned by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the Oneida Indian Nation, whose history is related to the events at Fort Stanwix during the era of the American Revolution. Fort Stanwix NM has a cooperative agreement with Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site related to coordinated interpretation, and the Oneida Indian nation helps provide interpretive services at Fort Stanwix NM. There are additional neighboring heritage attractions primarily related to the American Revolution, which provide valuable partnership opportunities for Fort Stanwix NM. They include General Herkimer Home State Historic Site; Baron von Steuben Memorial State Historic Park; the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor; Old Erie Canal State Park; Erie Canal Village, which recreates a 19th-century “canal village”; Rome Historical Society Museum and Archives; and the Oneida Nation Shako:wi Cultural Center.

3.2.3 Public Safety and Access

Visitor use and experience is affected by the ease of access to the site and interpretation once on it. Existing access to the site is not easy, by foot or car.

Public Access to Fort Stanwix **Access to the General Public**

West Dominick Street and Black River Boulevard are heavily traveled thoroughfares. Visitors access the fort grounds from an entrance on Black River Boulevard or North James Street. All parking is off-site in public and privately owned lots. Approximately 33 percent of all visitors arrive in buses or in carpools. Drop-off areas for bus groups and visitors with disabilities are provided on South James Street and on Black River Boulevard. There is no parking permitted in these areas. The South James Street drop-off is the primary entry point to the fort grounds. It is an area enhanced with contrasting pavement, large site signs, and directional interpretation where the path begins to the main entrance.

Pedestrian Orientation from Parking to Fort Stanwix National Monument

Visitors arriving at the Fort from Erie Boulevard, Black River Boulevard and heading north on North James Street are notified of their arrival by large Fort Stanwix National Monument signs located on Fort grounds at the main entrances on Black River Boulevard near East Dominick Street and on North James Street near West Dominick Street.

Visitors who park in the surface parking lot across from the North James Street use the crosswalk at the southwest corner of West Dominick and North James Street to cross North James Street. Visitors who park at the Fort Stanwix garage may either cross to the east side of North James Street at the crosswalk at the intersection with Liberty Street and walk south to the Fort, or walk south on the west side of North James Street, crossing West Dominick and North James Streets. There is a crosswalk but no crosshatching or pedestrian signal head. Pedestrians cross at risk of oncoming traffic from north- and southbound traffic on North James Street and turning traffic from Black River Road and Erie Boulevard without any traffic sign control or pedestrian signal.

There is a crosswalk with a pedestrian crossing signal but no crosshatching at the eastern end of the intersection of Erie Boulevard and North James Street. This crossing is most likely to be used during large events when people park off-site in the Freedom Mall parking lot.

Pedestrians also gain access to the fort grounds from Black River Boulevard. The park is bordered by concrete sidewalks within the public right-of-way, providing access to the lawn surrounding the fort.

Handicapped Accessibility and Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

The parking garage is accessible to persons in wheelchairs as it has an elevator. Concrete city sidewalks leading from the garage to the Fort are accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

The park meets all standards of programmatic accessibility, especially at the Willett Center. Many park facilities, including trails and structures, are not completely wheelchair accessible. On the fort grounds, the stone dust/gravel surface leading from the entrance on North James Street to the fort's main gate is about one-eighth mile in length and difficult to negotiate in a wheelchair. The circulation paths have similar limitations. The entry trail leads to the main bridge into the parade ground. The Southwest Casemate (artisan area) entry has been graded to serve as a wheelchair ramp. These areas and the entry trail leading from the main bridge to the parade ground may be technically in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) but may not be functionally in compliance - the transcendent legal measure of compliance. Both entries to the storehouse (public rest rooms) have been graded to accommodate those with disabilities. Restrooms provide one handicapped sink and toilet in each room. The fort has a portable wheelchair ramp available for use with the help of an employee. Renovations for accessibility have been made in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 USC 4151 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 USC 701 et seq.), and the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (now chiefly merged with ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)).

Public Safety

The City of Rome fire and police departments provide public safety and emergency services. The Rome Memorial Hospital is nearby. Some of the park rangers are trained in the basics of first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. In the event an incident or emergency requiring law enforcement officers occurs, the City of Rome Police Department is requested by calling the emergency services dispatcher at 911. The park has purchased Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) for placement at the fort.

There is a school bus stop in front of St. Peter's Church on North James Street. Children who live in the residential area east of the Rome Historical Society pick up the bus here. The bus heads north on North James Street in the morning, picking children up at 8:00 am. The bus heads south on North James Street in the afternoon, dropping off the children at 3:00 pm (Smith, 2002).

3.2.4 Traffic and Parking

Traffic Patterns

Most visitors to the fort arrive on the New York State Thruway, taking Exit 32. There is a National Park Service sign for the fort on both sides of the highway. Visitors then follow State Route 233 to Erie Boulevard, taking a right after the Fort onto James Street, where there are public parking facilities. There are brown Fort Stanwix National Monument signs directing traffic from the highway exit to the fort.

The fort property is encompassed by public streets, except at the northwest corner where it is abutted by St. Peter's Church. The public streets include Park Street, a narrow city street; North James Street, a two-lane city street; Black River Boulevard (NY Route 26), a four-lane arterial state highway; and Erie

Boulevard (NYS Route 46/49/69), the four-lane major arterial state highway through the downtown area (NPS, 2002a). Speed limits on all of the bordering streets are 30 miles per hour. There are traffic signals at the corner of North James Street and Erie Boulevard and at the corner of North James and Liberty Streets. There is a stop sign on West Dominick Street at its intersection with North James Street. North James Street has the right-of-way. There are turning lanes from Erie Boulevard onto North James Street and from North James Street onto West Dominick Street.

In 2009, the New York State Department of Transportation is undertaking improvements in the area of NYS Routes 26 and 46 between East Dominick Street and Chestnut Street. The scheduled project includes pavement resurfacing, signal upgrades and replacements, crosswalk improvements, and sidewalks.

Traffic Volumes

The fort is bordered by two heavily traveled arterials. Traffic counts in 1999 and 2000 by the fort indicate an average annual daily traffic count (AADT) of about 21,500 on Erie Boulevard, 21,000 on Black River Boulevard, 8,500 on North James Street, and 3,850 on Court Street (NPS, 2002a; Parking Memo, 2002). Counts were generally stable in subsequent studies in 2004 and 2006. The highest hourly volumes are during the morning and evening rush hours (8:00 am – 8:30 am and 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm), and during lunchtime.

Parking Availability

- There is no parking on the fort site. Parking is not permitted on city streets along the perimeter of the park. The main parking for the fort is located on North James Street and points west. Public parking available within two blocks of the fort entrance on North James Street is comprised of a total of 680 spaces:
- 88 spaces in a privately owned parking lot on the southwest corner of North James and West Dominick Streets, including three bus/recreational vehicle (RV) spaces and four handicapped (referred to as ‘the North James Street lot’);
- 533 spaces in the Fort Stanwix Garage, on the southwest corner of North James and Liberty Streets;
- 32 street parking spaces on the 100 – 200 block of West Dominick; and
- 27 spaces behind the Rome Savings Bank, on the north side of West Dominick Street, including two handicapped spaces (referred to as ‘the Rome Savings Bank lot’).

The Fort Stanwix Garage is open from 6:30 am until 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday. It is closed on weekends and major holidays. The garage is located approximately 700 feet north of the fort entrance.

A limited amount of on-street parking is available in front of businesses on East Dominick Street near Black River Boulevard. A signalized pedestrian crossing on Black River Boulevard directs visitors to the fort entrance.

Large events held at the fort are usually held after business hours and on weekends. Hence, people park at the North James Street lot, on West Dominick Street, in the Rome Savings Bank lot, and in other parking lots, both public and private, which are considered to be outside of the typical visitor’s walking range to the fort. These include Freedom Plaza, the George Street parking garage, and surface lots.

There are signs directing people to the North James Street lot in front of the fort heading west on Erie Boulevard near the corner of North James Street, and heading east on Erie Boulevard near the Freedom

Plaza. There are no signs to parking for visitors traveling southbound on James Street or eastbound on Liberty Street.

The Rome Parking Authority operates two parking garages in the Central Business District (CBD). The garages open during the busiest times, weekday business hours. The largest source of parking demand is downtown workers, who purchase monthly parking permits. Of the 5,496 permits sold in 2001 for the downtown garages, approximately 60 percent, or 3,300 permits are sold to workers at the Rome City Hall and the 100 employees at the Central New York Disabilities Service Office (Central NY DSO), which occupies the ground level of the garage.

Three bus or recreational vehicle parking spaces are available in the North James Street lot. Sometimes tour buses park in the Freedom Mall parking lot. There is no designated bus parking area in Rome, beside the three spaces at the North James Street lot.

Drop off locations for handicapped visitors and buses are available on the east side of North James Street and on Black River Boulevard. There is no handicapped or bus parking at these locations. There are four handicapped spaces at the North James Street lot and two handicapped spaces at the Rome Savings Bank lot. The James Street garage is partially accessible, with elevators and access ramps, but no automatic door openers to the glass enclosed elevator bank.

Bicycle and Public Transportation Access

The City of Rome operates public bus service. Although there is no bus stop directly at the fort, the stops on James Street and Liberty Street are within a five-minute walk. There is also bus service between Rome and Utica. An Amtrak railroad station is located about one mile away.

The roadway system around the park is not particularly accommodating for bicycles. High volumes of motor vehicles, highway ramps, and complicated intersections discourage casual cyclists. There is a bicycle rack at the front entrance to the park for visitors and employees. There are no designated bicycle routes that pass the fort.

3.2.5 Local Land Use Planning

Land Uses

Oneida County

Oneida County is located in central upstate New York, 35 miles east of Syracuse and 90 miles west of Albany. The two urban centers in the county are Rome and Utica, just north and south of the New York State Thruway. Much of the rest of the 1,227.2 square-mile county is rural. The northeastern county boundary is with the Adirondack State Park. North of the park is the Tug Hill area, noted for heavy snowfalls and winter sports. These areas are sparsely populated and popular in the winter for snowmobiling and skiing; in the spring and summer for fishing, hiking and mountain biking; and in the fall for hunting.

In 1998, there were 235,500 acres in farms, 30 percent of Oneida County's acreage. Most of the 1,120 farms are dairy farms. Oneida County ranks sixth in the state for number of farms and sixth for land in farms (USDA, 2000). The land in farms has been slowly declining.

City of Rome and Rome Central Business District (CBD)

The historic center of Rome was planned around the corner of Dominick and James Streets, the location of Fort Stanwix. Urban renewal in the early 1960s replaced many parts of the historic downtown with

large urban blocks and West Dominick Street was turned into a pedestrian mall. The land once bordering the intersection of West Dominick Street and Black River Boulevard was blocked off and the 16 acres was used to reconstruct Fort Stanwix in 1974-1976. As was the case with many Northeastern cities, pedestrian malls were not successful, and business moved to neighborhood and regional shopping centers with convenient parking. The pedestrian mall was removed in 1996-97 and vehicular traffic re-introduced to that section of Dominick Street.

With some exceptions, many buildings located in the Central Business District (CBD) were constructed within the last 40 years as part of the city's urban renewal efforts in the late 1960s and early 1970s. While the CBD is very clean and well maintained in comparison to other upstate New York commercial districts, it also lacks turn-of-the-century commercial buildings and thus distinctive architecture. The 16-acre fort site is on the periphery of the downtown and is the primary green space for the CBD. The four-lane arterial streets surrounding the fort on three sides are heavily traveled.

Surrounding Land Uses

The fort forms the eastern boundary of the CBD. Land uses in the densely developed area west of the fort include two banks, City Hall, two parking garages, several parking lots, two vest pocket parks, a 99-unit apartment building for senior citizens, social service and government agencies, business services, retail stores, and professional offices. Businesses include the Rome Chamber of Commerce, a jewelry store, a television repair service, the non-profit Capitol Theater, Oneida County offices, a mental health and alcohol recovery program, administrative offices of Rome Hospital, and the United Way. The largest presence on West Dominick Street is non-profit social service agencies and county offices. Oneida County occupies approximately 40,000 square feet of office space on West Dominick Street.

The former site of the American Café, which is next to the surface parking lot at the corner of North James and West Dominick Streets, is now occupied by the Rome Savings Bank. On the south side of West Dominick Street, one block west of Fort Stanwix, is a large, vacant building formerly occupied by an office supply store. The 28,000 square-foot building also has frontage on Erie Boulevard. East of the fort on the east side of Black River Boulevard, is a fire station, residential neighborhood with a church, several restaurants and shops. The Rome Fire Department erected and maintains a Fire and Police Memorial Park adjacent to the monument grounds along Black River Boulevard.

North of the fort is the Gansevoort-Bellamy Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a local preservation district. It is what remains of the historic CBD. This district includes Old City Hall, the Old Post Office (now occupied by the Rome Historical Society), and the Oneida County Courthouse. Also north of the fort is a small area of one- and two-family homes, the fire and police memorial, and two blocks improved as small parks. Most of the rest of the city is residential with neighborhood and strip retail on local collectors and main arterials.

The national monument, as federal property, is not subject to the city's zoning jurisdiction. Adjacent zoning is primarily commercial in nature.

3.2.6 Visual Resources

The fort is the primary distinguishing view in the downtown and the first one to make an impression on visitors as they approach the downtown. The expansive views historically found at Fort Stanwix have been obscured by urban development. The immediate existing views and vistas, therefore, do not contribute to the historic significance of the site. Views of adjoining urban properties, notably St. Peter's and City Hall, are used for interpretive purposes to contrast "historic" and existing conditions. In the reconstruction of the fort, the grounds were kept open to suggest the historic views and vistas, except along the west and north edges where plantings were used to screen adjacent urban views. The views to the south and east down the embankment to the Mohawk River have also been lost due to urban development, and have small clusters of trees on the park boundary. The Willett Center, added to the site's south side, was planned to reflect the character of the original fort in form and materials.



Figure 6: Fort Stanwix National Monument – View from South Lawn Area.

The fort grounds are the main landscaped open space in Rome's CBD. The fort is only partly visible above the horizontal plane as one approaches the intersection of Black River Boulevard and North James Street. The fort complex's landscaping was reconstructed at the same time as the Fort. The outer edges of the Fort on the north, south, and west sides are composed of a berm followed by a ditch, a parapet, a low palisade fence, and a glacis. The glacis is the low, gently sloping outermost earthwork, the outer edges of which are almost imperceptible. It was graded after demolition of the buildings on the site and is fairly level with a gentle downgrade toward the south. In the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, the elevation of the fort entries, parade grounds, and earthworks of the fort complex were set at historic levels. The scarp and counterscarp form sloping sides of an eight-foot deep ditch surrounding the rampart walls on the north, west, and south sides. The glacis rises at a 40-degree angle to a height of six feet at its parapet. From the crest of the parapet the earth gradually slopes down to the original ground level with an approximate distance of 75 feet.

The site has an appearance typical of relatively undeveloped urban parks and open space – neither wild nor built-up. The site outside the glacis is primarily lawn, with deciduous trees lining North James Street, Erie Boulevard,

and parts of Black River Boulevard, and a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs north of the fort to screen the facility management building and residences north of the site. The lawn area is mechanically mowed to maintain a neat appearance. The fort site is surrounded by small-scale urban development: a church, a parking lot, a parking garage, a bank, and one- and two-family homes.



Figure 7: Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center



Figure 8: View Looking East from Fort to James Street Parking Garage

Part 4. Environmental Consequences

4.1 Introduction

The alternatives outlined in this document establish overarching management guidelines for Fort Stanwix National Monument. The general nature of the alternatives dictates that the analysis of impacts also should be general. Thus, although the National Park Service can make reasonable projections of likely impacts based on best professional judgments and best available information, these projections are based on assumptions that may not prove to be accurate in the future.

As a result, the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) presents an overview of potential impacts relating to each alternative. This FEIS will serve as a basis for future, more in-depth National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents prepared to assess subsequent developments or management actions.

Impact topics were selected for analysis by determining which resources or elements of the human environment would be affected by actions proposed under the two management alternatives; topics were also chosen to address planning issues and concerns. Those resources and environmental concerns that would not be appreciably affected by either of the two management alternatives were eliminated from further consideration and are not discussed in this section of this document. Topics eliminated from further consideration are described in Section 3.1 of this document.

4.2 Methodology

The planning team based this impact analysis and conclusions largely on the review of existing research and studies, information provided by experts in the National Park Service and other agencies and organizations, and Fort Stanwix staff insights and professional judgment. It is important to remember that negative impacts need to be avoided or minimized through mitigating measures.

Effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative. Direct effects are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place as the action. Indirect effects are caused by the action and occur later or farther away, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Cumulative effects are the impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other action. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

Impact duration refers to how long an impact topic would last. For the purposes of this document, the planning team used the following terms to describe the duration of the impacts:

Short-term: The impact would last less than one year, normally occurring during construction and recovery.

Long-term: The impact would last more than one year, normally resulting from operations.

Table 4: Criteria for Impact Intensities

	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources	Visitor Experience	Park Operations	Socioeconomic Resources
Negligible	Impact localized and not detectable, or at lowest levels of detection	Impact barely perceptible and not measurable; confined to small areas or affecting a single contributing element of a larger national register district with low data potential	Impact barely detectable, not in primary resource areas or occasionally would affect a few visitors	Impact not detectable, no discernible effect on ability to provide services, manage resources, or operate the park	Impact not detectable, no discernible effect on socioeconomic environment
Minor	Impact localized and slightly detectable, but would not affect overall structure of any natural community	Impact perceptible and measurable, but would remain localized; affecting a single contributing element of a larger National Register district with low to moderate data potential, or would not affect character-defining features of a National Register-eligible or listed property	Impact slight but detectable, not in primary resource areas or would affect few visitors	Impact slightly detectable but would not obstruct or improve overall ability to provide services, manage resources, or operate the park	Impact slightly detectable but would not affect overall socioeconomic environment
Moderate	Impact clearly detectable; could appreciably affect individual species, communities, or natural processes	Impact sufficient to change a character-defining feature but would not diminish resource's integrity enough to jeopardize its national register eligibility, or it generally would involve a single or small group of contributing elements with moderate to high data potential	Impact readily apparent, somewhat adverse, or somewhat beneficial, in primary resource areas or would affect many visitors	Impact clearly detectable and could appreciably obstruct or improve the ability to provide services, manage resources, and/or operate the park	Impact clearly detectable and could have an appreciable effect on the socioeconomic environment
Major	Impact highly noticeable and would substantially influence natural resources, e.g. individuals or groups of species, communities, or natural processes	Substantial, highly noticeable change in character-defining features would diminish resource's integrity so much that it would no longer be eligible for national register listing, or it would involve a large group of contributing elements or individually significant properties with exceptional data potential	Effect severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial, in primary resource areas, or would affect most visitors	Impact would have a substantial, highly noticeable, potentially permanent influence on the ability to provide services, to manage resources, or to operate the park	Impact would have a substantial, highly noticeable, potentially permanent influence on socioeconomic environment

4.3 Projects That Make Up the Cumulative Impact Scenario

A cumulative impact is described in regulation 1508.7 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), as follows:

A “cumulative impact” is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

To determine potential cumulative impacts, projects in the area surrounding Fort Stanwix were identified. The area included Oneida County, NY in particular, as well as several multi-county heritage tourism initiatives including the Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. These projects were determined primarily through conversations with park staff and local officials. Potential projects identified as cumulative actions included any planning or development activity that was currently being implemented or would be implemented in the near future.

These cumulative actions are evaluated in the cumulative impact analysis in conjunction with the impacts of each alternative to determine if they would have any additive effects on a particular natural, cultural, visitor use, or socioeconomic resource. Because many of these cumulative actions are in the planning stages, the evaluation of cumulative effects was based on a general description of the project. Actions that will be evaluated for their cumulative effect are described as Other Recent Planning Efforts and Initiatives in Section 1.3.4 of this plan.

4.4 Impairment of Resources

In addition to determining the environmental consequences of the preferred alternative and other alternatives, NPS policy (NPS, *Management Policies 2006*, section 1.4) requires that potential effects be analyzed to determine whether or not proposed actions would impair the resources of the unit.

The fundamental purpose of the national park system, established by the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve resources and values. National Park Service managers must always seek ways to avoid or minimize, to the greatest degree practicable, adverse impacts on the resources and values. However, the laws do give the National Park Service the management discretion to allow impacts on the resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, as long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values. Although Congress has given the National Park Service this management discretion, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement that the National Park Service must leave the resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise.

The prohibited impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of the resources and values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values. An impact on any resource or value may constitute an impairment. An impact would be most likely to constitute an impairment if it affected a resource or value whose conservation would be (a) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, (b) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities to enjoy it, or (c) identified as a goal in the park’s general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents. Impairment might result from NPS activities in managing a park, visitor activities, or activities undertaken by concessionaires, contractors, and others operating in the park. In this document, a determination on impairment is made in the conclusion section for each impact topic in the “Environmental Consequences” section.

4.5 Impacts of Actions Associated with Alternative One: No Action

4.5.1 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archeological Resources

The No Action alternative does not include any proposals that would result in ground disturbance. This alternative calls for completion of a comprehensive archeological inventory at the fort, which would improve the park's baseline knowledge of the resource and would support future decisions relative to the management of this resource. This action is expected to have long-term, moderate benefit to the park.

The Reconstructed Fort and its Associated Landscape

The No Action alternative includes a number of proposals that may have an effect on the reconstructed fort. This alternative calls for making improvements to the fort to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); rehabilitating List of Classified Structures resources identified as being in need of repair; and increasing the number of fort structures available for interpretation to the public. All of these proposals are expected to have a moderate long-term impact. The ADA compliance measures and the rehabilitation of existing structures are all expected to have a beneficial effect. Increasing the number of structures open to the public for interpretation could have a negative effect in the absence of mitigating measures. Increased visitor volumes in previously underutilized areas of the fort could result in increased wear and tear on fort structures.

This alternative does not include any proposals that would affect the fort's associated landscape.

Archives and Collections

Completing a collections catalog would have a minimal but long-term benefit in managing archives and collections.

Ethnographic Resources

The No Action alternative does not include any proposals that would result in impacts to sacred sites and ethnographic resources. This alternative calls for the completion of ethnographic research for the park as it relates to the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier. This action would have a moderate, long-term benefit for the park's ability to manage for such resources. This research would allow NPS to identify, acknowledge and collaborate in the protection of sacred sites and ethnographic resources illuminated by the study process.

Section 106 Compliance

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of undertakings on National Register listed or eligible properties and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment. No actions associated with Alternative 1 will affect cultural resources. NPS will pursue consultation on any actions that may affect cultural resources.

4.5.2 VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

Visitation

Current visitation levels and special-use attendees have not resulted in adverse impacts on the park's resources and existing facilities. It is anticipated that the fort's structure has a carrying capacity that could accommodate a doubling of its visitation without negatively affecting resource conditions. The Willett Center has enhanced the visitor experience and expanded the carrying capacity.

The No Action alternative calls for the development of a new park orientation film. A well-publicized roll-out for a new orientation film could temporarily increase visitation to the park, but would not have a significant effect on overall, long-term visitation to the park. Conversion of fort rooms from administrative uses to interpretive use could enhance visitor interest to a minor degree and extend length of stays. Therefore, it is likely that these actions could have a minimal, short-term beneficial impact on park visitation figures. Aside from routine maintenance and refurbishment of wayside exhibits, the No Action alternative does not call for any other actions that would have an effect on park visitation. Undertaking a National Park Service Visitor Services Project (VSP) could provide a modest long-term benefit in improving interpretive and educational programming, park facilities, operations, and planning.

Visitor Contact/Orientation/Information

Under the No Action alternative, the park would proceed with plans to develop interpretive programming that would be more historically accurate and would discuss the siege of Fort Stanwix and its causes and effects. This updated program would more accurately depict the role of the American Indians and explore the impact of the Revolutionary War on the Six Nations. The development of the new park programming would be of long-term benefit for visitor understanding and information. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park in terms of visitor orientation and information.

Interpretive and Educational Programming

The relocation of administrative and collections storage space to the park headquarters building (Rome Historical Society) and to the Willett Center has made a considerable area of the fort available for future interpretation. This offers the park the opportunity to expand its interpretive and educational program offerings within the confines of the fort, providing a major, long-term benefit from interpretive and educational programming.

This alternative also calls for the park to expand its staff to meet current needs. The addition of new visitor services staff would allow the park to meet current demands for interpretive and educational programming. However, it would not allow the park to expand its interpretive and educational program offerings. This could be problematic should demand for these services grow. This action is expected to be of moderate, long term benefit to the park.

The No Action alternative does not call for the development of any additional visitor facilities.

Recreational Resources

Under Alternative 1, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect recreational resources associated with the park.

4.5.3 PARK OPERATIONS

Under both alternatives the park would seek congressional action to formalize the park boundary. This action would fulfill legislative requirements laid out in the park's enabling legislation and will not have any significant effect on overall park operations.

Facilities Management

The park would make minor improvements to the existing maintenance building. These improvements would address existing facility management needs but would not accommodate any additional growth in the maintenance. This action would result in a minor, long-term benefit.

Staffing and Volunteers

Under Alternative 1, the park would expand the existing park staff and volunteer corps to meet current needs.

This would not accommodate any significant change or growth in visitor programming or park operations. This action would be of moderate, long-term benefit.

4.5.4 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Parking

Under Alternative 1, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect parking.

Circulation

Under Alternative 1, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect vehicle circulation in and around the park. The NPS will encourage the city and others to enhance traffic circulation and pedestrian safety. Pathway accessibility would be improved as well as access to fort features for mobility impaired visitors. The park would take measures to improve or modify areas of the fort and pathways to meet accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act. However, because of the rugged character of the fort, efforts to achieve physical accessibility in all fort structures might not be realistic. Programmatic access would be provided if necessary. The park would support hike and bike trail connections to downtown and to the NY State Canal Recreationway/Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and North Country National Scenic Trail and the Black River Trail. Modest long-term benefits would accrue to the visitor experience.

4.5.5 SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Adjacent Land Uses

Under Alternative 1, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect adjacent land uses in or around the park.

Local and Regional Economy

As noted in the affected environment section of the document, the park plays a role in the local and regional economy – as an employer, as a consumer of local goods and services, and as a visitor attraction. Under this alternative, the park would experience a modest increase in personnel. Visitation is expected to continue to increase at modest increments over time in concert with visitation to the national park system as a whole. The park would continue to have a minimal to moderate impact on the local and regional economy.

4.5.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Fort Stanwix National Monument has been identified as an important historic resource in a number of heritage initiatives including the Mohawk River Valley State Heritage Corridor, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and the Northern Frontier Project, Inc. The goal of all of these initiatives is to promote the recognition, preservation, and interpretation of heritage resources in all of these areas. Their operational strategies emphasize cross-marketing, coordinating programming and events, and otherwise trying to encourage increased awareness of and visitation to the region. Under the No Action alternative, Fort Stanwix will not be engaged in these initiatives although it is likely to benefit directly from them.

There are cumulative impacts to cultural resources that may occur in the foreseeable future. Archaeological resources, some of which may still need to be identified, may be impacted by future actions at the site, including municipal infrastructure/utility line relocation and street realignment. The fort, which is over 30 years old, may eventually need to have certain features repaired or replaced. The landscape around the fort and the berms and counterscarp in the ditch area may undergo settling, which would have to be remedied.

4.5.7 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The No Action alternative will not trade off long-term maintenance of resources for short-term uses.

4.5.8 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

The No Action alternative will not result in any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

4.5.9 ADVERSE IMPACTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

The No Action alternative, by definition, would not result in any unavoidable adverse impacts.

4.6 Impacts of Actions Associated with Management Alternative Two: Preferred Action

4.6.1 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archeological Resources

As in the No Action alternative, the National Park Service would complete a comprehensive archeological inventory at the fort. The completion of the archeological inventory would improve the park's baseline knowledge of the resource and would support future decisions relative to the management of this resource. This action is expected to be of long-term, moderate benefit to the park.

As part of the park's proposed outreach activities under Alternative 2, the National Park Service, in partnership with others, would provide technical advice and assistance to park partners having archeological and/or other cultural resources. This would enable park partners to better understand and evaluate the cultural resources on their properties and to identify opportunities for enhancing protection of resources in the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier regions. This is an example of the proposed outreach activities that would contribute positively to the cumulative impacts attributable to the many heritage tourism initiatives incorporating Fort Stanwix National Monument.

The Reconstructed Fort and its Associated Landscape

As in the No Action alternative, this alternative also calls for making improvements to the fort to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); rehabilitating List of Classified Structures resources identified as being in need of repair; planting select areas around the fort in more appropriate vegetative species such as meadow grasses and wildflowers; and increasing the number of fort structures available for interpretation to the public. All of these proposals are expected to have a moderate long-term positive impact. The ADA compliance measures and the rehabilitation of existing structures are all expected to have a beneficial effect. Increasing the number of fort structures open to the public for interpretation could have a negative effect in the absence of mitigating measures. Converting some lawn area to meadow grasses and wildflowers can help to provide a better interpretive experience for visitors while also reducing maintenance and energy consumption. Increased visitor volumes in previously underutilized areas of the fort could result in increased wear and tear on reconstructed fort structures.

Archives and Collections

As in the No Action alternative, this alternative calls for the completion of a collections catalog which would result in a minimal, but long-term benefit in terms of managing and protecting archives and collections.

Ethnographic Resources

As in the No Action alternative, Alternative 2 does not include proposals that would result in impacts to

sacred sites and ethnographic resources. This alternative calls for the completion of ethnographic research for the park as it relates to the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier. This action would have a moderate, long-term benefit relative to the park's ability to manage for such resources. This research would allow NPS to identify, acknowledge and collaborate in the protection of sacred sites and ethnographic resources

illuminated by the study process.

Section 106 Compliance

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of undertakings on National Register listed or eligible properties and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment. No actions associated with Alternative 2 will affect cultural resources. NPS will pursue consultation on any actions that ultimately may affect cultural resources. Parties that customarily consult on Section 106 issues, including the SHPO and Indian tribes, have been consulted on the Fort Stanwix NM GMP and its pertinent issues.

4.6.2 Visitor Use and Experience

Visitation

The reconstructed Fort Stanwix is currently open to the public only nine months of the year. It is closed January through March. The Willett Center is open 12 months a year. In addition, the Willett Center fulfills a regional gateway function, drawing upon visitors to the Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor as well as those visiting Fort Stanwix. With a broadened park interpretive component at the Willett Center, supported by cooperative programs with other Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley institutions, it is assumed that the Willett Center programs could increase attendance by 25 percent in its initial years of operation.

As in the No Action alternative, this alternative calls for the development of a new park orientation film. A well-publicized roll-out for a new and more expansive orientation film could temporarily increase visitation to the park, but would not have a significant effect on long-term visitation to the park. Therefore, it is likely that these actions could have a minimal, short-term beneficial impact on park visitation.

Under this alternative, Fort Stanwix National Monument would use its existing authorities to offer technical assistance and support coordinated programming at thematically related sites in the Mohawk Valley/ Northern Frontier region. This could offer enhanced opportunities for the park and its partners to more effectively “cross-market” joint programs and events and thereby increase their visitation. Effects of different initiatives could vary widely but would likely offer beneficial, long-term results involving anywhere from minimal to moderate increases in visitation to Fort Stanwix or its partner sites.

Current visitation levels and special-use attendees have not resulted in adverse impacts on the park’s resources and existing facilities. It is anticipated that the fort’s carrying capacity would accommodate a doubling of its visitation without negatively affecting resource conditions. The Willett Center has enhanced the visitor experience and carrying capacity of the site.

Visitor Contact/Orientation/Information

Under this alternative, visitors would have the opportunity to view an orientation film and or exhibits regarding the purpose, significance, and primary themes of the fort, prior to their first exposure the fort proper. This would represent a major, long-term benefit in improving the visitor experience.

The park would proceed with plans to develop public programming that would be more historically accurate and would discuss the siege of Fort Stanwix within in its larger Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regional context, with more emphasis on diverse themes and groups. Updated programming would more accurately depict the role of the American Indians and explore the impact of the Revolutionary War on the Six Nations of the Iroquois. The development of the new park orientation film would be of major, long-term benefit for visitor orientation and information.

This alternative calls for the park to expand its staff to meet the program requirements described under this alternative. The addition of new visitor services staff would improve opportunities for visitor contact and help meet projected demands for visitor information and orientation upon arrival at the site. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park.

Under this alternative the park would explore with partner organizations the development of a multiple-use trail and/or shuttle vehicle service linking Fort Stanwix with Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and other related sites. In addition to offering the public improved recreational and educational opportunities, this action would improve visitor orientation to the park by allowing visitors to experience the fort's regional context and its relationship with related sites. This action is expected to be of major, long-term benefit to park visitors and could result in minimum but long-term energy savings.

Under this alternative, Fort Stanwix NM would use its existing authorities to offer technical assistance and support programming at thematically related sites in the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier region. This initiative would better enable the park to highlight the history of the fort within its regional context and encourage visitors to expand their itineraries to include visits to related sites that would enhance their understanding of the park and broader themes. Interactivity among these related sites would contribute to a clearer understanding of their purpose and significance for visitors to the region. The success of this initiative would rely on a significant amount of cross-marketing of the sites along with joint programs and special events. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park.

Interpretive and Educational Programming

Under this alternative, the interpretive emphasis at the fort would expand to serve as a gateway interpretive locus for the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regions. At the Willett Center, public programming, exhibits and the orientation film would be available year-round. This action is expected to be of major, long-term benefit to the park.

A new area of the fort would be accessible for interpretation through exhibits and interpretive walking tours. This would be of major, long-term benefit in providing interpretive and educational programming.

This alternative calls for the park to expand its staff to meet the program requirements described under this alternative. The addition of new visitor services staff would improve opportunities for visitor contact and meeting projected demands for interpretive and educational programming. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park.

Under this alternative, Fort Stanwix National Monument would use its existing authorities to offer assistance and support programming at thematically-related sites in the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier region. This initiative would better enable the park to highlight the history of the fort within its regional context and encourage visitors to expand their itineraries to include visits to related sites that would enhance their understanding of the events leading up to and resulting from the siege of Fort Stanwix. Interactivity among these related sites would contribute to a clearer understanding of their purpose and significance for visitors to the region. The success of this initiative would rely on a significant amount of cross-marketing of the sites along with joint programs and special events. This action is expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the park's interpretive and educational programming.

Recreational Resources/ Opportunities

Under this alternative, a limited part of the fort grounds maintained as mowed lawn and used by local residents for informal recreation would be converted to a more natural landscape of native grasses and wildflowers (1-2 acres), subject to a cultural landscape treatment plan. The park has also hosted numerous community-based events on the fort grounds. Although the total amount of open space available for informal recreation and special events would be diminished, it would not be eliminated. There would still be open

space available to accommodate the local demand for informal recreational use and the park would still make areas of the grounds available for special events as appropriate. This action is expected to have a moderate, long-term, adverse impact on current recreational resources and opportunities on the fort grounds, but this would be partially offset by enhancing the landscape setting of the reconstructed fort, providing for a recreational and interpretive experience evoking a greater sense of understanding and appreciation of

the fort's purposes.

Under this alternative the park would pursue the development of a multiple use trail linking Fort Stanwix with Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and perhaps other related sites. The proposed trail is part of a larger network of trails being developed along the length of the New York State Canal Recreationway and located in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. This action would enhance recreational opportunities for local residents, as well as for visitors to the region. This action is expected to offer major, long-term benefits in terms of recreational opportunities.

4.6.3 PARK OPERATIONS

Under both alternatives the park would seek congressional action to formalize the park boundary. This action would fulfill legislative requirements laid out in the park's enabling legislation and will not have any significant affect on overall park operations.

Park Facilities

Under this alternative, the park would make internal improvements as necessary to the existing facility management building to improve resource protection and operational efficiency and to meet operational requirements for this alternative. These actions would result in a major, long-term benefit.

Staffing and Volunteers

Under Alternative 2 there are a number of proposals that would affect park staff and volunteers. The addition of an expanded educational outreach and technical assistance initiative, in addition to the development of year-around visitor programming, would all necessitate increases in park staff and the expansion of the volunteer corps. Under this alternative, the park would expand the existing staff and volunteer corps to meet additional management requirements as proposed under this alternative. This action would be of major, long-term benefit to the park.

4.6.4 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Parking

Under Alternative 2, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect parking. Parking on-site would continue to be very restricted, so vehicle egress from the site onto North James Street would be limited to service vehicles and those using the handicapped parking spaces.

Circulation

On average visitor days, park facilities, pathways, and public parking would not exceed carrying capacity. However, during some special events at which visitation far exceeds the average, the park may need to consider ways to mitigate crowding and circulation issues to minimize damage to resources and ensure a positive visitor experience.

Vehicular circulation around the site would not be changed, though the park would work with partners to improve traffic flow and safety, directional signing, and pedestrian safety through traffic calming measures.

Under this alternative, the park would take measures to improve areas of the fort and pathways to meet accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act. However, because of the rugged character of the fort, efforts to achieve physical accessibility in all fort structures might not be realistic. Programmatic access would be provided if necessary. This action is expected to provide a moderate, long-term benefit.

Under this alternative, the park would pursue the development of multi-use recreational trail and/or shuttle service joining Fort Stanwix and Oriskany Battlefield and perhaps related sites. In addition to being universally accessible, the trail would offer an attractive, energy-conserving alternative to vehicular access between the fort and Oriskany Battlefield. This action is expected to offer major, long-term benefits in terms

of accessibility and alternative transportation. The shuttle service could also reduce energy consumption.

4.6.5 SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Adjacent Land Uses

Under Alternative 2, there are no proposed actions that would appreciably affect adjacent land uses in or around the park.

Regional and Local Economy

The broader development of Fort Stanwix's interpretation to encompass the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley historical era is likely to have the largest impact on the regional and local economy. Added to the Willett Center's offerings, this expanded role could provide a regional gateway function for the Mohawk Valley/Northern Frontier region of New York while in turn creating partnerships between related sites that energize resource preservation and visitor opportunities in synergistic ways. The actions associated with this alternative are expected to be of moderate, long-term benefit to the local economy.

4.6.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

In addition to cumulative impact described under Alternative 1, the following impacts would result from Alternative 2. In partnership with other regional entities, a broadened interpretive focus with cooperative partnerships would foster increased appreciation of other cultural resources in the Mohawk Valley and Northern Frontier regions of New York.

There are cumulative impacts to cultural resources that may occur in the foreseeable future. Archaeological resources, some of which may still need to be identified, may be impacted by future actions at the site, including municipal infrastructure/utility line relocation and street realignment. The fort, which is over 30 years old, may eventually need to have certain features repaired or replaced. The landscape around the fort and the berms and counterscarp in the ditch area may undergo settling, which would have to be remedied.

4.6.7 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

This alternative will not trade off long-term maintenance of resources for short-term uses.

4.6.8 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

This alternative would not result in any permanent commitment of resources.

4.6.9 ADVERSE IMPACTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

Unavoidable impacts associated with this alternative include the loss of traditionally mown lawn area due to conversion to vegetation more evocative of the historic scene adjacent to the reconstructed fort.

4.7 Summary of Impacts

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Impact Topic	Alternative 1 “No Action”	Alternative 2 “Preferred”
Cultural Resources		
<i>Archeological Resources</i>	Long Term/ Moderate (+)	Long Term /Moderate (+)
<i>Fort and Landscape</i>	Long Term/ Moderate (+/--)	Short Term/ Minimal (--) Long Term/ Moderate (+)
<i>Archives and Collections</i>	Long Term/Minimal (+)	Long Term/ Minimal (+)
<i>Ethnographic Resources</i>	Long Term/ Moderate (+)	Long Term/ Moderate (+)
Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services		
<i>Visitation</i>	Short Term/ Minimal (+) Long Term/ Negligible	Long Term/ Minimal (+)
<i>Visitor Contact/ Orientation/ Information</i>	Long Term/ Moderate -- Major (+)	Long Term/ Major (+)
<i>Interpretive and Educational Programming</i>	Long Term/ Moderate (+)	Long Term/ Major (+)
<i>Recreational Resources</i>	Negligible	Long Term/ Moderate (+)
Park Operations		
<i>Park Facilities</i>	Long Term/ Minimal – Major (+)	Long Term/ Major (+)
<i>Staffing & Volunteers</i>	Long Term/ Moderate – Major (+)	Long Term/ Major (+)
Parking and Circulation		
<i>Parking</i>	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Circulation</i>	Negligible	Long Term/ Major (+)
Socioeconomic Environment		
<i>Adjacent Land Uses</i>	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Regional & Local Economy</i>	Long Term/ Minimal – Moderate (+)	Long Term/ Moderate (+)

Alternative 2 has been identified as the environmentally preferred alternative, since it provides the greater number of benefits in comparison with Alternative 1. Any adverse impacts from Alternative 2 are considered minimal.

Part 5: Consultation

5.1 American Indian Consultation

Fort Stanwix National Monument has engaged in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes and maintains relationships with non-federally recognized special-interest American Indian organizations with historic ties and interests in the area. American Indian tribes and organizations have been involved extensively in the planning, design, and installation of exhibits in the Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center, in addition to the preparation of the park's General Management Plan. For the Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center, formal consultations were held in April 2004 with the Oneida Indian Nation and Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and discussions were held in October 2004 and March 2005 with the Haudenosaunee Council Standing Committee as representatives of several recognized tribes and affiliated groups, including the Onondaga Indian Nation, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Tuscarora Nation, Seneca Nation of Indians, Tonawanda Band of Seneca, and Akwesasne Mohawk Territory. The Oneida Indian Nation collaboratively works with the park in providing volunteer support for interpretive programs several days each week, and met formally most recently with the park in November 2005 to discuss the park's Long Range Interpretive Plan.

5.2 State and Federal Consultation

This draft GMP was submitted to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

5.3 List of Recipients

New York Congressional Delegation

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Senator Charles Schumer
Representative Michael Arcuri
Representative John M. McHugh

New York State Assembly

Assemblywoman RoAnn M. Destito
Assemblyman David R. Townsend, Jr.
Senator Joseph A. Griffo
Senator David J. Valesky

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
Northeast Lands Office
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
Saratoga National Historical Park
North Country National Scenic Trail
French and Indian and American Revolutionary War National Park Units
Park Planning and Special Studies Division, Washington Office
American Indian Liaison Office, Washington Office
Ethnography Office, Washington Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Transportation
 Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Tribal Governments

Cayuga Nation of Indians
Onondaga Indian Nation
Oneida Indian Nation
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
Seneca Nation of Indians
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin
Tonawanda Band of Seneca
Tuscarora Nation

American Indian Groups

Haudensaunee Council

State Agencies

Governor, State of New York
NYS Archives
NYS Board of Regents
NYS Department of Economic Development
NYS Department of Education
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
NYS Library and Museum
 NYS Curator, History
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
 State Historic Preservation Officer
 Oriskany Battlefield and Steuben Memorial
 Lake Delta State Park
 Johnson Hall State Historic Site
 Herkimer House State Historic Site
 Phillip Schuyler State Historic Site
 Fort Ontario State Historic Site
 Ganondagan State Historic Site
NYS Thruway Authority
 NYS Canal Corporation
NYS Department of Transportation Regions 1 and 2
Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor Commission

Local Governments

Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Rome
Mayor, City of Rome
Oneida County Department of Planning
Oneida County Historian
Oswego County Historian
Rome City School District

Non-Governmental Agencies

Canadian National Archives
Canadian War Museum
Christopher Chadbourne Associates
Eastern National
Erie Canal Village
Finger Lakes Trail Conference
Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce
Northern Frontier Project, Inc.
Oneida County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Oneida County Historical Society
Rome Area Chamber of Commerce
Rome Historical Society
Colgate University
Cooperstown Graduate Program
Mohawk Valley Community College
SUNY Oneonta
Syracuse University
Herkimer-Oneida County BOCES
Iroquois Museum
Madison-Oneida County BOCES
Madison-Herkimer-Montgomery County Historical Societies
Museum of Applied Military History (Gavin Watt)
Museum Association of New York
New York Historical Association
New York State Cultural Education Center
Old Stone Fort
Village of Oriskany Museum
Dr. Colin Calloway (Dartmouth College)
Dr. David Preston (Virginia Military Institute)
Dr. Woody Holton (University of Richmond)
Dr. Ed Countryman (Southern Methodist University)
Dr. Karim Tiro (Xavier University)
Dr. Kevin Marken

Appendices

Appendix 1: Park Legislation

[PUBLIC-No. 291-74th CONGRESS]

[S. 739]

AN ACT

To provide for the establishment of a national monument on the site of
Fort Stanwix in the State of New York.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when title to the site or portion thereof at Fort Stanwix, in the State of New York, together with such buildings and other property located thereon as may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior as necessary or desirable for national monument purposes, shall have been vested in the United States, said area and improvements, if any, shall be designated and set apart by proclamation of the President for preservation as a national monument for the benefit and inspiration of the people and shall be called the “Fort Stanwix National Monument”: *Provided,* That such area shall include at least that part of Fort Stanwix now belonging to the State of New York.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized to accept donations of land, interests in land and/or buildings, structures, and other property within the boundaries of said national monument as determined and fixed hereunder, and donations of funds, for the purchase and/or maintenance thereof, the title and evidence of title to lands acquired to be satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided,* That he may acquire on behalf of the United States out of any donated funds, by purchase at prices, deemed by him reasonable, or by condemnation under the provisions of the Act of August 1, 1888, such tracts of land within the said national monument as may be necessary for the completion thereof.

SEC. 3. That the administration, protection, and development of the aforesaid national monument shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916, entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, as amended.

Approved, August 21, 1935.

Appendix 2: Description of Fort Features

Casemates: built by the American and British armies, prior to and during the American Revolution, casemates were located under the ramparts and were used primarily as soldiers' barracks or as a place for the storage of provisions and ordinance.

Barracks: a building or set of buildings used especially for lodging soldiers in garrison.

Bombproofs: constructed under bastions, bombproofs were constructed to enable them to withstand direct artillery fire.

Bastions: pentagonal sections of the ramparts which extend beyond the square of the fort at each corner. Fort bastions are used for demonstration of cannon and musket firing.

Bridge: a fixed wooden bridge leads to a wooden drawbridge that heralds formal entry to the fort.

Curtain Walls: in fortification, is that part of the body of a place, which joins the flank of one bastion to that of the next. The curtain walls are part of the ramparts. (Fair condition)

Ditch: a 10-ft. deep and 25-ft. wide ditch, which replicates a historic feature, abuts the fort on three sides. (Good condition)

Flagstaff: 40-ft. tall, red cedar, constructed with upper and lower poles complete with ship mast details, such as cheek boards, trestle tress, cross trees, caps, and trucks.

Glacis: a glacis is described as that part of the sloping earthworks built outside the ditch surrounding the ramparts. The purpose of the glacis was to provide a long uninterrupted section of ground which faced the fortifications, was easily observable by the sentries, and was capable of being covered by gunfire from within. Earthworks around the fort are stable but will erode if the routinely mowed grass cover is removed. (Good condition)

Parade Ground: the open area where troops are assembled for mounting guard, exercising, reviewing the guard, inspecting arms, holding divine services, or witnessing the execution of punishment. Recently rebuilt, the parade ground is used for military drill re-enactment and living history programs.

Pickets: used to prevent the enemy foot soldier from having direct access to the rampart walls. The fort is surrounded by 2,037 wooden pickets (10-ft. long and 8-10-in. in diameter), reconstructing an obstacle for enemies planning to gain access to the original fort.

Whipping Post: peeled wooden post approximately 9-in. in diameter and 7 ½-ft. tall, terminating in a round finial.

Appendix 3: Section 106 Consultation Requirements for Plan Undertakings

Alternative 1: No Action (Continuation of Current Management Practices)

Proposed Action	106 Compliance Requirement
Make fort structures and pathways compliant with ADA.	No effect on historic resources.
Rehab existing fort structures.	No effect on historic resources.

Alternative 2: Preferred

Proposed Action	106 Compliance Requirement
Broaden park theme and cooperate with partners.	No effect on historic resources.
Make fort structures and pathways compliant with ADA.	No effect on historic resources.
Rehab existing fort structures.	No effect on historic resources.

Appendix 4: Glossary

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): signed into law on July 26, 1990, the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and contains requirements for new construction, for alterations or renovations to buildings and facilities, and for improving access to existing facilities.

Carrying Capacity: the measure used by NPS to ensure that the integrity of cultural and natural resources is not adversely impacted by visitors, and that the quality of the visitor experience is not diminished by inappropriate uses.

CBD: Central Business District.

CIP (Comprehensive Interpretive Plan): a component of the National Park Service planning process, the CIP encompasses long-range interpretive planning and annual interpretive planning.

CMP (Collection Management Plan): a plan which provides short-term and long-term guidance to park staffs in the management and care of museum objects and archival and manuscript collections.

Covenant Chain: a symbol of agreement (either three silver links or, later, a Wampum belt) between Indians and whites representing peace, soundness of mind, and eternal friendship.

Cumulative Impacts: impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impacts of the actions when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of who undertakes them. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

DO (Director's Orders): internal NPS documents which may prescribe supplemental operating policies, specific instructions, requirements, or standards applicable to the functions, programs, and activities of the NPS.

Environmental Justice: term used to describe issues of fairness toward minority, low-income, or underserved populations in the siting of development.

EIS (Environmental Impact Statement): document required by the National Environmental Policy Act that studies all likely impacts that could result from major federally assisted programs.

FOST: Fort Stanwix National Monument.

FY: Fiscal Year.

GMP (General Management Plan): a plan that sets forth the basic management philosophy and framework for decision-making at national parks.

GPRA: The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993. The Act is intended to bring performance management to government agencies.

HUD: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Internal Capability Statement: a study structured to assess the capability of park management to properly manage and preserve its collections.

IP (Interpretive Prospectus): implementation planning document based on a GMP and other documents that develops interpretive media for a unit in the National Park System.

LCS (List of Classified Structures): inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures having historical, architectural, or engineering significance in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest.

LRIP (Long Range Interpretive Plan): a component of the National Park Service planning process, the

LRIP provides a vision for the future interpretation and describes actions necessary to implement the general management plan concepts.

Management Prescriptions: these describe the specific resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved in a park and maintained over time.

National Historic Site: a landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity, or person. Examples include battlefields and presidential homes.

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act): a law passed by Congress in 1969 that requires large-scale environmental protection to balance between use and preservation of natural and cultural resources in the federal decision-making process.

NHL (National Historic Landmark): a district, site, building, structure, or object in public or private ownership, judged by the US Secretary of the Interior to possess national significance in American history, archeology, architecture, engineering, or culture.

NPS: National Park Service.

NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

NYSOPRHP: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and National Historic Landmark: site of important battle having profound impact on the events of the Revolutionary War.

Park Resource Areas: areas where resources relating to a specific nationally significant landscape are concentrated.

Preservation: the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property.

Reconstruction: defined as depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features and details of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location. Reconstruction is only appropriate when documentary and physical evidence is available to permit accurate reconstruction with minimal conjecture. An example of reconstruction at Fort Stanwix would be rebuilding a historic fort structure, when its construction, details and location can be fixed through period photographs or surveys, or through archeological investigation.

Rehabilitation: the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration: the process of accurately depicting the form, features and character of a property as it appeared in a particular period of time. This can include removing features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features that can be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence. Care must be taken to ensure that features that are merely conjectured are not introduced, because that could create a false sense of history.

RMP (Resource Management Plan): a component of the National Park Service planning process, a RMP provides detailed guidance on projects, plans, objectives, strategies, and budget needed to manage natural and historic resources.

Significance (i.e. national significance): the meaning or value ascribed to an historic property or cultural

landscape based on the National Register criteria for evaluation.

Structures: man-made elements of the landscape, other than buildings. These include stone walls, fences, monuments, tablets, avenues, and other man-made features.

Treatment: work carried out to achieve a particular historic preservation goal.

USDO: United States Department of the Interior.

Appendix 5: Socioeconomic Conditions of Rome, New York, Region

Employment and Unemployment

The largest employment sectors in the Utica-Rome area as of 2006 are Services, Government and Trade, Transportation & Utilities.

Sector	Utica-Rome MSA*
Natural Resources, Construction & Mining	3,600
Manufacturing	13,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	22,400
Financial Activities	8,300
Services	48,600
Government	32,200
Total Jobs	128,700
Utica-Rome MSA includes Herkimer and Oneida Counties.	
Source: NYSDOL	

Even during the closing of the Griffiss Air Force Base, shrinking its workforce from 7,000 to 500 in 1995/1996, the unemployment rate continued to decline, while the labor force remained stable. Labor force and unemployment rate trends in the Utica-Rome Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) have been similar. There are several possible reasons for the stability. First, many of the employees were eligible for early retirement. Second, military personnel and their spouses moved away, effectively shrinking the labor supply. Third, at this time, the Turning Stone Casino opened and hired several thousand employees.

	Rome	Utica-Rome MSA	New York State
1995	5.3	5.5	6.4
1996	5.2	5.3	6.3
1997	5.1	5.3	6.5
1998	4.5	4.6	5.7
1999	4.2	4.3	5.2
2000	4.0	4.0	4.5
2001	5.0	4.6	4.9
2002	5.6	5.3	6.2
2003	5.8	5.5	6.4
2004	5.6	5.3	5.8
2005	5.0	4.8	5.0
2006	4.4	4.4	4.5
Source: NYSDOL			

Year	Rome	Utica-Rome MSA	New York State
1996	16,500	141,200	8,614,000

1997	16,700	142,900	8,843,000
1998	16,800	142,900	8,890,000
1999	16,800	142,900	8,882,000
2000	16,700	142,400	8,941,000
2001	16,900	143,158	8,939,917
2002	15,000	142,300	9,299,000
2003	15,000	142,100	9,309,000
2004	15,000	142,300	9,353,000
2005	15,100	144,200	9,430,000
2006	15,000	142,700	9,499,000
Source: NYSDOL			

Major Employers

The industries employing the most people in the region are government, gaming, health care, and manufacturing. The New York State Department of Corrections has two facilities, one just south of Rome and one between Rome and Utica. The Oneida Indian Nation employs over 4,200 people at its Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona, about 20 minutes southwest of Rome.

Employer	Business	Employment
Oneida Indian Nation	Casino/Hotel/Retail	4,573
NYS Department of Corrections	Human Services	1,200
Rome City Schools	Education	1,000
Rome Developmental Center	Mental Health	1,670
Rome Memorial Hospital	Health Care	1,031
Air Force Research Laboratory	Research/Development	863
U.S. Dept of Defense Finance Accounting Center	Government Accounting	850
Rite Aid Distribution	Distribution Center	576
Family Dollar Distribution	Distribution Center	460
Birnie Bus	Transportation	420
Empire Aero Center	Aviation	406
Revere Copper Products	Manufacturing	400
City of Rome	Government	400
Source: Rome Chamber of Commerce; City of Rome		

Retail Sales

Most retail in Rome is contained in shopping centers and free-standing buildings along Black River Boulevard and Erie Boulevard. Many national retailers are located in New Hartford and Utica. Utica also has the only enclosed mall in the region. Rome's retail opportunities include Wal-Mart and J.C. Penney. Most of the remaining retail is neighborhood retail.

2003	\$ 7,344,241
2004	\$ 7,832,292
2005	\$ 7,994,535

2006	\$ 8,034,450
2007	\$ 7,344,241
Source: City of Rome, New York	

History of Economic Development

Prior to World War II, Rome was known as Copper City. More than one-tenth of the copper made in the U.S. was manufactured here. There are a few companies left in this industry in the region.

The 3,500-acre Griffiss Air Force Base had been a foundation of the Rome economy since it opened in 1942. At the height of its operations in the 1960s, there were approximately 12,000 military and civilian jobs on the base. By 1993 this number had been reduced to about 7,000, of which 4,500 were military and the remaining civilians. As a result of the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), the base was closed. Service at the base officially closed in September 1995. As a result of the 1995 BRAC, the Air National Guard airfield was closed in September 1998.

The base has been converted into the Griffiss Business and Technology Center. Some military functions remained at or were moved to the center, including the Air Force Research Lab, which employs about 800 persons in aerospace technology, and the Northeast Air Defense Sector, which employs about 300 persons. The Defense Finance and Accounting Services Agency employs 300-400 people. Other employers include Empire Aero Center, a new hotel, and a range of public, private, and nonprofit organizations. In total, there are about 3,300 persons employed at companies on the former base.

Other occupants of the Center manufacture copper products, strip steel, wiring, tire producing machines, wire and cable equipment, electrical insulation, and public transportation buses. The New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, with 50 employees, is located in the park. A TRW manufacturing plant relocated from Utica to Griffiss. The center is also the site for the new Rome High School.

The Central Business District (CBD) of Rome was historically centered on Dominick and James Streets and surrounding the present site of Fort Stanwix. An urban renewal project begun in the 1960s, it included the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, demolition of most of the historic downtown and replacement of it with larger urban blocks, construction of a pedestrian mall on West Dominick Street, and construction of a pedestrian bridge and office bridge from the downtown to the newly constructed Freedom Mall on the south side of Erie Boulevard. The opening of retail malls in Utica in the 1970s and the development of big box and strip retail centers contributed to the decline of activity in the CBD. The pedestrian mall and pedestrian bridge were removed in 1996-97 and vehicular traffic restored to the section of West Dominick Street near the Fort.

Commercial Real Estate Market

The northern sector of the CBD, which includes Fort Stanwix and West Dominick Street, has approximately 412,000 sq. ft. of office and retail space. Ten to 15 percent of this space is occupied by county offices. An additional 20,000 – 30,000 sq. ft. of office space is occupied by banks and the City of Rome. The primary occupants of the office space in the CBD are non-profits and government agencies. Most of the office space was built in the 1960s and 1970s and is Class B (see Text Box), with rents averaging \$8.00 - \$10.00 per sq. ft. gross in recent years. There are some professional offices close to the intersection of George and West Dominick Streets.

What is Class A, B and C Office Space?

“Office buildings are classified according to a combination of location and physical characteristics. In descending order, these are Class A, Class B, and Class C. Class B and C buildings are always

defined in reference to the qualities of Class A buildings. There is no formula by which buildings can be placed into classes; judgment is always involved.

The Urban Land Institute, a noted authority on commercial land uses, says the following about these classifications in its OFFICE DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK. Class A space can be characterized as buildings that have excellent location and access, attract high quality tenants, and are managed professionally. Building materials are high quality and rents are competitive with other new buildings. Class B buildings have good locations, management, and construction, and tenant standards are high. Buildings should have very little functional obsolescence and deterioration. Class C buildings are typically 15 to 25 years old but are maintaining steady occupancy. A fair number of the Class C office space is in walk-up space above retail or service businesses. Tenants filter from Class B to Class A and from Class C to Class B.”

In a normal market, Class A rents are higher than Class B rents, which in turn are higher than Class C rents. This makes sense because Class A buildings offer higher quality to the tenants and cost more to provide.”

Source: MNCPPC.

There are four urban renewal lots that could be developed in the CBD. All are currently used as parking lots. Retail business in the downtown is limited apart from Freedom Mall. Within the northern sector of the CBD approximately 25 percent is retail. Almost two thirds of the downtown retail is vacant. Most of the businesses are non-profits, government, or financial services. Retail uses consist of two sandwich shops, a drugstore, a music store, a jewelry store, and a pawnshop. Freedom Mall, in the southern sector of the CBD, is on the south side of Erie Boulevard, about two blocks west of Fort Stanwix. The main tenants at this community shopping center include Staples and JC Penney. Long-term leases for anchor stores in the Mall average \$5.00 per sq. ft., triple net.

Most of the commercial development presently occurring in Rome is along Black River Boulevard north of the fort and on Erie Boulevard in the western part of Rome. Wal-Mart opened a 90,000 – 100,000 sq. ft. supercenter on the west side. Much of the Class A office space in Rome is located at the Griffiss Business and Technology Center. The targeted tenant/occupant market differs from the targeted market for CBD space. Many of the businesses require more modern facilities or offices combined with laboratory and research space. They do not need to be located within walking distance of the city or county offices in the CBD. Retail is not permitted at Griffiss, while it is in the CBD.

Historic Fort Stanwix Visitation

Annual guest count data was used to plot historic visitation trends at the fort between 1979 and 2005. The data include both in-fort visitors and those attending special events held on the fort grounds.

YEAR	TOTAL VISITATION	FORT DAY VISITATION
1979	68,288	37,629
1980	64,975	35,803
1981	60,696	33,445
1982	66,595	36,696

1983	63,154	34,800
1984	56,352	31,051
1985	67,100	36,974
1986	57,857	31,881
1987	45,338	24,982
1988	52,659	29,017
1989	51,271	28,252
1990	53,007	29,208
1991	57,172	31,503
1992	59,621	32,853
1993	54,785	30,188
1994	50,193	27,658
1995	56,139	30,934
1996	48,429	26,686
1997	47,218	26,018
1998	46,007	25,351
1999	51,228	28,228
2000	38,667	21,307
2001	53,065	29,240
2002	84,933	27,000
2003	58,366	30,000
2004	68,427	-
2005	65,001	-
2006	62,868	-
Source: National Park Service		

According to the Travel Industry Association of America, the majority of visits to historic sites are made by automobile. Well-known historic sites such as Gettysburg and Colonial Williamsburg tend to draw visitors from wider geographic areas, while lesser known or more geographically isolated historic sites serve a more local visitor market. This observation appears to hold true for Fort Stanwix. To determine if the regional population is a determining factor in annual Fort Stanwix visitation, a regression analysis was performed using the population of the Utica-Rome MSA and fort attendance for the years 1980, 1990 and 2000. A correlation coefficient of 0.9532 indicates a very strong relationship between the MSA population and fort visitation, and further supports the premise that a substantial portion of fort visitors reside within 50 miles of the monument.

Given that local residents account for nearly three out of four visitors, the population decline in the Utica-Rome metropolitan area is undoubtedly a factor in the changing levels of visitation to the fort.

The NPS has established a number of marketing and outreach initiatives to improve fort attendance. These efforts have primarily included discussions with local and regional tourism leaders regarding opportunities to coordinate marketing efforts.

A study “Impacts of Visitor Spending on the Local Economy: Fort Stanwix National Monument, 2003” (2005) by Michigan State University’s Daniel Stynes and Ya-Yen Sun, examined the economic impacts on the local community driven by Fort Stanwix NM. The study found that the 56,646 recreation visits at the fort represented 17,200 party trips or 26,700 party days in the local area. The two largest

segments in terms of days spent in the region are overnight visitors staying with friends and relatives or campgrounds in the area (38 percent) and day visitors coming from outside the region (30 percent). Park visitors accounted for 5,100 room nights in area motels in 2003.

On average, park visitors spent \$63 per party per day in the local area. Spending varies considerably across four visitor segments—from \$181 per night for visitors staying in area motels to \$20 per party for local day visitors. Visitors staying in motels account for 55 percent of the total park visitor spending, followed by other overnight visitors (24 percent). The majority of the visitor spending is for lodging (\$595,000), followed by restaurants (\$420,000), and gas/oil (\$195,000).

Using the National Park Service’s Money Generation Model Version 2 (MGM2), the study found that \$1.7 million spent by park visitors generated \$491,000 in direct personal income (wages and salaries) for local residents and supported 33 jobs in tourism-related businesses. Including secondary effects, the total impact of park visitor spending on the local economy was \$725,000 in personal income and 42 jobs. These figures do not include the impacts of park employees, park operations, or construction activity.

TABLE 12: FORT STANWIX NM VISITS & SPENDING BY SEGMENT, 2003

Segment	Recreation Visits (000s)	Party Trips (000s)	Party Days/Nights (000s)	Average Spending (per Party Night)	Total Spending (000s)	Percent of Spending
Local Day Trip	11.5	3.5	3.5	\$20.40	\$72	4%
Non-local Day Trip	26.4	8.0	8.0	\$35.50	\$285	17%
Motel Visitor	8.1	2.7	5.1	\$180.80	\$917	55%
Other Overnight Visitor	10.6	2.9	10.1	\$39.90	\$403	24%
Total	56.6	17.2	26.7	\$62.70	\$1,677	100%

Regional Recreation Sites

There are a variety of recreational opportunities in Rome and the surrounding regions. The primary tourism themes are the American Revolution and heritage tourism. The principal attractions include Turning Stone Casino, Fort Stanwix, Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, and Erie Canal Village.

Fort Stanwix National Monument

Fort Stanwix contains 16 acres of grounds and a reconstructed fort complex. A collections management and educational facility opened in 2005.

Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site

The Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site is located approximately six miles east of Fort Stanwix, midway to the New York State Thruway. There is a museum, wayside interpretive exhibits, and hiking available at the site. General Nicholas Herkimer fought the British and Indians in a battle here in August 1777, on his way to support American forces during the siege of Fort Stanwix.

Oneida Carry's Lower Landing

Oneida Carry's Lower Landing is the remnant of a portage site maintained by the Rome Historical Society, south of Fort Stanwix National Monument. A skirmish was fought here between the lead elements of the British force that would besiege the Fort in 1777 and Continental troops.

Rome Historical Society Museum and Archives

The Rome Historical Society Museum and Archives is located one block north of Fort Stanwix. The Society contains exhibits and a library on local history, archives, a gift shop and an auditorium where public programs are held.

Erie Canal Village

Erie Canal Village, in Rome, is a privately operated conjectural re-creation of a "canal village" of the 19th century, located on the site where the first shovel-full of earth was excavated for the original Erie Canal on July 4, 1817.

Fort Ricky

Fort Ricky, located south of Rome, is a children's zoo and water park.

Herkimer Home State Historic Site

The Herkimer Home State Historic Site, located approximately 50 miles east of Fort Stanwix. This site contains the home and gravesite of General Herkimer, who died at his home as a result of a wound he sustained at the Battle of Oriskany.

Old Erie Canal State Park

The Old Erie Canal State Park, west of Rome, is a 36-mile stretch of the 363-mile Enlarged Erie Canal. The park is included within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Its towpath has been designated a National Recreational Trail by the National Park Service. Access to the trail is off of I-90, between Rome and Syracuse. The canal segment and trail are used for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, canoeing, fishing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Wayside interpretive exhibits are maintained along the trail.

Oneida Nation Shako:wi Cultural Center

The Oneida Nation Shako:wi Cultural Center is located about 20 miles west of Rome. It includes historical and cultural exhibits. Other Native American cultural sites in the region include the National Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine, the excavated site of an Iroquois village, Fonda; and the Iroquois Indian Museum.

Steuben Memorial State Historic Park

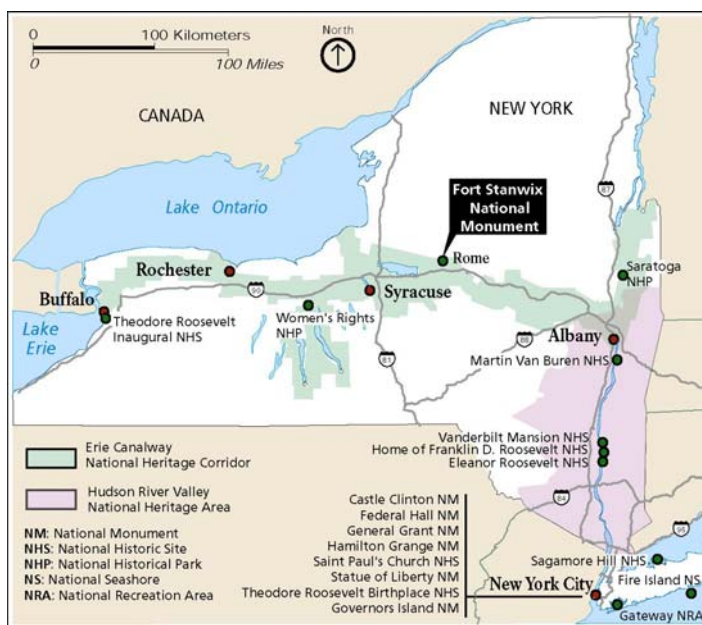
The Steuben Memorial State Historic Park is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Rome. It contains a memorial to a major Revolutionary War hero, Baron von Steuben.

Turning Stone Casino

The Turning Stone Casino is operated by the Oneida Indian Nation in Verona, New York, about twenty minutes west of Rome. The casino hosts national tours of well-known acts, has a 277-room hotel with conference center and spa, and a recreational vehicle park.

Scenic Trails

The New York State Department of Transportation administers three scenic trails that pass through Rome adjacent to Fort Stanwix on Black River and Erie Boulevards. The first is the Black River Trail, which runs for 111 miles along the western edge of the Adirondack wilderness. The second is the Central Adirondack Trail, which begins in Glen Falls and runs northwest through the Adirondack Mountains. The third is the Revolutionary Trail, which starts in Albany and continues west 158 miles through Rome and past Oriskany Battlefield on Rt. 69, to Port Ontario on Lake Ontario.



National Park Service in New York State

Demographic and Community Characteristics

Oneida County

The City of Rome is located in the urbanized, central portion of Oneida County. Incorporated in 1798, Oneida County includes a land area of approximately 1,213 square miles in the north central portion of the State of New York. Located approximately 100 miles to the east of the state capital in Albany, the county has been the historic center of transportation routes (water, rail and highway) that strongly influenced the development of New York State and the larger northeast region.

From the mid-19th to the mid-20th century, Oneida County was both a major transportation center and a significant industrial center for the State of New York. With the migration of the textile industries to the south in the 1950s and the closure of Griffiss Air Force Base, and the subsequent loss of over 5000 jobs, in the late 1980s, the county has experienced significant losses to both its population and economy in the latter half of the 20th century.

With a population of 235,469 in 2000, the county experienced a 6.1 percent decrease in population size in the 1990s. County residence patterns include a broad range of communities and community types, ranging from small villages with populations of less than 200 to the larger urban environment represented by the Utica-

Rome MSA. The average population density within the county is 194.1 persons per square mile.

The county includes a total of 26 towns and 19 villages, as well as three incorporated cities. Utica, the largest city in the county by population with 60,651 residents, is also the county seat (Census, 2001). Rome is the second largest city in the county by population. Approximately 95,601 residents, or 41 percent of the total county population, live in its two largest cities, Utica and Rome.

In 2000, the minority population of Oneida County accounted for approximately 9.8 percent of its total population, or about 23,055 persons. The minority composition of Oneida's population is substantially lower than that for the State of New York, which is 32.1 percent minority. The median age of the resident population is 38.2 years. Persons 35 to 44 years old comprise the largest single age cohort, representing 15.6 percent of the population. Persons 65 and over comprise approximately 16.5 percent of the population. Children under the age of 19 make up approximately 26.7 percent of the population.

Of the population as a whole, an estimated 15.1 percent, or 33,339, persons were living at or below poverty in 1997; a level comparable to the 15.6 percent poverty level for the state as a whole. The 1997 median household money income of \$34,668 for county residents was approximately \$1,701 less than that for the State of New York. Per capita income for 1999 was \$23,910.

Oneida County supports a total of 90,496 individual households, with an average of 2.43 persons per household. The county had a total of 102,803 housing units in 2000, of which 67.2 percent were owner occupied units. Vacant units accounted for 12 percent of the total housing stock, or 12,307 units. For the calendar year 2000, a total of 281 new housing units were authorized by permit. Sales figures for the year show a median price of \$64,000 on sales of 1,915 units.

Utica-Rome MSA

In 2000, the Utica-Rome Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), of which the City of Rome is a part, contained a resident population of 299,896, living in a total of 116,230 households. Minority populations accounted for 18.5 percent of the total population, or 24,451 persons. The 1999 per capita income for residents of the MSA was estimated at \$23,225. Median family income for the MSA in 1998 was \$37,700. Of the total population, an estimated 15.7 percent was living at or below the poverty level in 2001.

The Utica-Rome MSA ranks third highest among MSAs losing population over the past 10 years. During the previous decade, the MSA lost approximately 16,737 or 5.3 percent of its population. Only the Pittsburgh and the Buffalo-Niagara Falls MSAs experienced larger population losses (Census, 2001). According to the Claritas Data Services, the Utica-Rome MSA population is expected to continue to decline to 295,299 by 2006. Many of those leaving the area are persons between the ages of 25 and 44. From 1990 to 2001, the MSA lost nearly 12,000 individuals in this age group, a decline of 12.6 percent.

The Utica-Rome MSA contained a total of 134,829 housing units in 2000. Of these, 14 percent were vacant. Owner-occupied housing accounted for 79,126 units or approximately 68 percent of all units. Median value for all housing in the MSA is estimated as \$77,095 (Census, 2001). The National Association of Home Builders Housing Opportunity Index for the fourth quarter of 1998 indicates that 87.7 percent of all new homes sold in the Utica-Rome MSA were affordable for a median household family living in the metropolitan area.

In 2000, a total of 87 permits for new housing construction were authorized in the MSA, representing a decrease of 6.5 percent from the previous year. Total permits for new housing in the first three quarters of 2001 were up 3.1 percent from the previous year, with 66 new permits authorized.

City of Rome

Covering an area of 72.66 square miles, Rome is currently the second largest city by land area in the State of New York. The City of Rome is central to major population centers throughout the Northeast and lies within a single day's drive from Montreal, Boston, New York City, Buffalo, Cleveland, and Washington D.C.

Rome is known as the “City of American History” because of its geographic significance as a major transportation link and the strategic importance of Ft. Stanwix during the French and Indian War and the American Revolutionary War. In 1784, the Treaty of Fort Stanwix ended the final phase of the American Revolution and opened the area to westward expansion. The city of Rome itself developed in the early 1800s along the area defined by Dominick and James Streets and the area surrounding the Fort Stanwix site.

From the mid-19th century through the close of World War II, the availability of good transportation stimulated the influx and growth of new industries, including knitting mills, canning factories, soap manufacturers, a locomotive works, iron works, and later copper mills and cable and wire manufacturers. At the peak of its industrial expansion, one tenth of all the copper in the United States was produced in Rome, earning the city the title of “Copper City.”

By the 1960s, the historic downtown district of Rome was replaced by new, larger urban blocks through a series of urban renewal projects. With the general economic decline common to many smaller industrial cities in the northeast during the latter half of the twentieth century, the central business district of Rome began to decline. Current plans for the city envision a renewed diversification of the business and commercial sectors of the city’s economy and a redeveloped downtown core.

However, despite economic reversals and a declining population, the Rome community retains a quality of life that continues to be desirable for residents. In a 1992 study conducted for the City of Rome, 83.3 percent of respondents rated Rome as either a good or very good place to live and work. Only 8 percent of respondents gave the city a bad or very bad rating.

The city’s 2000 population of 34,950 represents a sharp decline (22 percent) from its 1990 population of 44,350 and is significantly lower than its peak population of 51,646 in 1950. At least part of the population decline experienced during the mid-1990s can be attributed to the closure of Griffiss Air Force Base.

With an estimated minority population of 715, the city’s minority composition of two percent is substantially lower than that for the surrounding county or the Utica-Rome MSA. With a median age of 38.2 years, the 35 to 44-year-old age group represents the largest single age cohort in the Rome population. Persons 65 years of age and older account for approximately 17.2 percent of the population. Children 19 years old and under comprise 24.4 percent of the population.

In 2000, there were 13,653 individual households in the city with an average size of 2.3 persons per household. Rome supported a total of 16,272 housing units in 2000. Of these, 2,619 or 16.1 percent were vacant. Owner-occupied housing accounted for 7,792 units or approximately 57.1 percent of all units.

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Appendix 7: Response to Public Comments

This section of the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) provides an accurate, comprehensive presentation of the agency and public comments received on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The comments and responses allow interested parties to

review and assess how other agencies, organizations, and individuals have responded to the proposed action, the alternatives, and their potential impacts.

The National Park Service received eight written comments submitted by regular mail, electronic mail, or hand delivery while the draft GMP/EIS was on public review, between September 15 and December, 1, 2008. Four additional written comments were submitted on special comment forms made available at the October 23, 2008 public meeting. Members of the public several comments and questions made members of the public at the public meeting. All comments were reviewed and considered by the National Park Service in preparation for the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS), consistent with the requirements of 40 CFR 1503. Comment letters from all federal, state, and local agencies, private organizations, and individuals have been reproduced in this section.

As defined in the National Park Service's *Director's Order-12: Handbook and Director's Orders for Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making*, comments are considered substantive when they:

- a) question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the GMP/EIS;
- b) questions, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of environmental analysis;
- c) present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EIS;
- d) cause changes or revisions in the proposal.

Substantive comments have been addressed by means of written responses, and, where appropriate, the text of the Final GMP/EIS was revised. Revisions have been referenced in the response. All comments have been reviewed and have been considered in editing the final document, as appropriate.

In accordance with federal privacy requirements, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of individuals have been blocked out. All written comments submitted to the National Park Service are available for review at Fort Stanwix National Monument, 112 E. Park Street, Rome, NY 13440.

None of the written comments nor any of the oral comments made at the October 23, 2008 public meeting opposed Alternative 2: Preferred Alternative, nor did they support Alternative 1. Comment letters included correspondence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New York State Department of Transportation, Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Rome (NY) Parks & Recreation Department, Rome (NY) Area Chamber of Commerce, Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor, The Preservation Society for the American Revolution, Inc., and Oneida Indian Nation. The other comments came from individuals.

The written comments from the public, with NPS responses, follow:



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 09 2008

Ms. Debbie Conway
Superintendent
Fort Stanwix National Monument
112 E. Park Street
Rome, NY 13440

Rated: LO

Dear Ms. Conway:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Draft General Management Plan for the Fort Stanwix National Monument (CEQ#20080365) in Rome, New York. This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 7609, PL 91-604 12 (a), 84 Stat. 1709) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Fort Stanwix National Monument is a reconstructed Revolutionary War-era fort, with related outworks, built on the footprint of the original Fort Stanwix. The site was established as a national monument in 1935, however, reconstruction of the fort only started in 1974, with the fort opening to the public in 1976. The National Monument site occupies approximately 16 acres and is bordered by main thoroughfares surrounded by a mixture of commercial, residential, light industrial and institutional land uses, none of which were present during the fort's period of occupation. The site of the fort, but not the reconstructed structure, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark, significant for the events that transpired there during the American Revolution. The general management plan will define the basic management philosophy that will guide park management decisions over the next 15 to 20 years and will direct the actions required to support that philosophy.

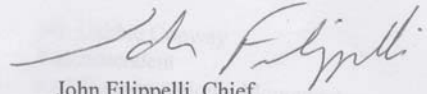
The DEIS describes two alternative management plans; the no action alternative, and the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative would significantly broaden the context of interpretation and collaborative heritage development and preservation initiatives involving local and regional partners. This would include expanding interpretation to emphasize the relationships between the fort and Oriskany Battlefield, the French and Indian War, and the treaties of Fort Stanwix. It would also expand working relationships with partners such as the Oneida Nation and the State of New York.

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>

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Based on our review, we do not anticipate that implementation of the preferred alternative will result in significant adverse impacts to the environment. Accordingly, consistent with EPA policy, we have rated this DEIS as LO, indicating that we lack objections to the project's implementation.

Sincerely yours,



John Filippelli, Chief
Strategic Planning Multi Media Programs Branch

cc: James O'Connell, National Park Service

Rating: LO

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Draft General Management Plan for the Fort Stanwix National Monument (EON20040365) in Rome, New York. This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7499, 7501-7503, 7505, 7506, 7509) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Fort Stanwix National Monument is a prewar-erected Revolutionary War-era fort, with related structures, built on the site of the original Fort Stanwix. The site was established as a national monument in 1931. However, reconstruction of the fort only started in 1974, with the fort opening to the public in 1976. The National Monument site covers approximately 16 acres and is bounded by main thoroughfares surrounded by a mixture of commercial, residential, light industrial and institutional land uses, most of which were present during the fort's period of occupation. The site of the fort, but not the reconstruction structure, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. Significant for the events the transpired there during the American Revolution, the general management plan will define the basic management philosophy that will guide park management decisions over the next 15 to 20 years and will identify the actions required to support that philosophy.

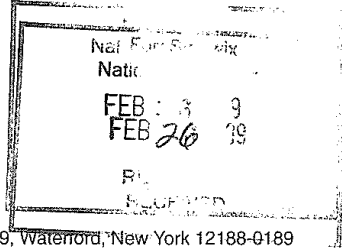
The DEIS describes two alternative management plans for an action alternative, and the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative would significantly broaden the context of interpretation and collaborative resource development and preservation including economic, local and regional purposes. This would include expanding interpretation to include the relationships between the fort and Onondaga battlefield, the French and Indian War, and the history of Fort Stanwix. It would also expand working relationships with partners such as the Onondaga Nation and the State of New York.

NPS Response: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, found that “we do not anticipate that implementation of the preferred alternative will result in significant adverse impacts to the environment. Accordingly, consistent with EPA policy, we have rated this DEIS as LO, indicating that we lack objections to the project’s implementation”



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com



David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

Deborah Conway
112 East Park St.
Rome, NY 13340

Ms. Conway,

Thank you for requesting the New York State Office of Historic Preservation's (SHPO) comments on the Fort Stanwix National Monument Draft General Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. As the actions detailed in the document do not entail a direct Federal or State undertaking involving new construction or ground disturbance at this time, the SHPO does not have comments at this time.

Sincerely,

Travis M. Bowman
Historic Preservation Analyst



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New York Field Office
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: (607) 753-9334 Fax: (607) 753-9699
http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo

To: James O'Connell

Date: Jan 30, 2009

USFWS File No: 90182

Regarding your: [X] Letter [] FAX [] Email Dated: January 7, 2009

For project: Fort Stanwix Draft General Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Located:

In Town/County: City of Rome / Oneida County

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- [X] Acknowledges receipt of your "no effect" and/or no impact determination. No further ESA coordination or consultation is required.
[] Acknowledges receipt of your determination. Please provide a copy of your determination and supporting materials to any involved Federal agency for their final ESA determination.
[] Is taking no action pursuant to ESA or any other legislation at this time but would like to be kept informed of project developments.

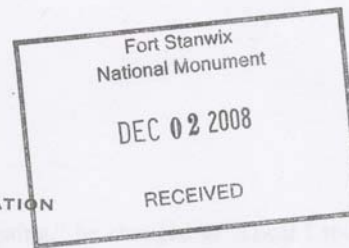
As a reminder, until the proposed project is complete, we recommend that you check our website (http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm) every 90 days from the date of this letter to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project area is current. Should project plans change or if additional information on listed or proposed species or critical habitat becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

USFWS Contact(s): [Signature]

Supervisor: Anne J. Secord Date: 1/30/09



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REGION TWO
207 GENESEE STREET
UTICA, NEW YORK 13501
www.nysdot.gov



MICHAEL A. SHAMMA, P.E.
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Regional Planning & Program Management
(315)793-2450
Internet: NYSDO12@dot.state.ny.us
Fax: (315)793-2719

ASTRID C. GLYNN
COMMISSIONER

November 26, 2008

Deborah L. Conway, Superintendent
Fort Stanwix National Monument
112 East Park Street
Rome, NY 13440

Dear Ms. Conway:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Fort Stanwix National Monument Draft General Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Our Department's comments are listed below:

- Page 6; Section 1.3.4. – Other Recent Planning Efforts and Initiatives – Mohawk River Trail Plan. Reference should be made to the 2006 Transportation Enhancements Award to the City of Rome for The Mohawk Trail project. When complete, this trail will connect several resources, including the Fort Stanwix National Monument.
- Pages 45-46; Section 3.2.4. – Traffic Patterns
Please note that an improvement project is planned for the area of NYS Route 26 & 46 between East Dominick Street and Chestnut Street. The project is scheduled for spring 2009 and will consist of pavement resurfacing, signal upgrades and replacements, crosswalk improvements and sidewalks.
- Pages 46-47; Section 3.2.4 – Traffic and Parking – Traffic Volumes
Traffic counts from our Department's 2004 and 2006 data only indicate a very small change (less than +1%) in traffic volumes on Erie Blvd. and Black River Blvd from the referenced 2001 traffic volume figures.

Deborah L. Conway, Superintendent
November 26, 2008
Page Two



- Page 47; Section 3.2.5 - Local Land Use Planning
It is suggested that the section title, "Local Land Use Planning," be changed to "Local Land Use," because land use is described without addressing planning efforts.

If you have any further questions or if you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (315)793-2450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Co. Rice for RER".

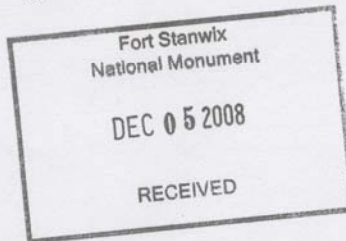
ROBERT E. RICE, JR., P.E.
Regional Planning & Program Manager

RER:SH:kr

NPS Response: The information about transportation improvements has been included in Section 1.3.4 and Section 2.3.4 of the Final GMP/EIS.

Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Sherry White - Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
W13447 Camp 14 Road
P.O. Box 70
Bowler, WI 54416



December 2, 2008

Superintendent
Fort Stanwix National Monument
112 E. Park Street
Rome, NY 13440

RE: Fort Stanwix National Monument
Draft General Management Plan – Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Sir:

Thank you for contacting the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe regarding the above referenced project. The Tribe is committed to protecting archaeological sites that are important to tribal heritage, culture and religion. Furthermore, the Tribe is particularly concerned with archaeological sites that may contain human burial remains and associated funerary objects.

As described in your correspondence, the proposed ground disturbing activity of this project is not in a region of archaeological interest to the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe.

We appreciate your cooperation in notifying the Historic Preservation Office. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sherry White,
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

(715) 793-3970

Email: sherry.white@mohican-nsn.gov



November 24, 2008

Fort Stanwix National Monument
Attn: Debbie Conway, Superintendent
112 East Park Street
Rome, NY 13440

Dear Superintendent Conway:

The Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission has reviewed the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and supports Alternative 2 – The preferred alternative. Congratulations for putting together a well-organized and informative Plan.

Fort Stanwix National Monument, the City of Rome and the Mohawk Valley Region from Oneida County through to the Saratoga/Albany district deserve nothing but world-class sites and attractions. In a region that holds a treasure trove of American history, we have settled for less attention, less funding and less support from State and National leaders. That has to change and now.

This Management Plan should take the high road option and leaders across the state and federal levels should get behind it enthusiastically. This plan is sound, well thought out and is achievable.

Therefore the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission, a long-term partner with National Park Service in promoting our magnificent history, endorses Alternative 2 and will support it accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Frederick E. Miller'.

Frederick E. Miller
Executive Director

66 Montgomery Street • Canajoharie NY 13317 • phone: 518-673-1045 • fax: 518-673-1078 • www.mvhcc.org

Promoting Economic Development Through Heritage Tourism

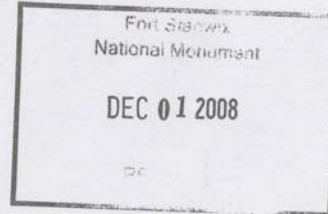
ROME AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Ph (315) 337-1700 • Fax (315) 337-1715
www.RomeChamber.com • info@RomeChamber.com

December 1, 2008

Ms. Deborah L. Conway, Superintendent
Fort Stanwix National Monument
112 E. Park St.
Rome, NY 13440



Dear Debbie:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you on November 14, to discuss the Fort Stanwix National Monument Draft General Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Chamber endorses the proposed Preferred Action Alternative and we look forward to working with you to provide the support needed on behalf of the business community to help you succeed in developing the Fort's assets and initiatives to the fullest.

Although the Chamber's primary involvement would be in areas of partnerships and cooperative actions, we would stand ready to assist in other areas if called upon. As you know, our Cooperative Agreement was renewed and has been used effectively – most recently during reconstruction of the James/Dominick intersection opposite the Willett Center. We partner during Rome's Honor America Days Syracuse Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert, held annually at the Fort since 1984, and have new events such as the annual Cycling the Erie trip where more than 500 bicyclists overnight at the Fort in July during their eight-day trip along the route of the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany.

The past 30 years have been productive as the Fort and Chamber have worked together to promote tourism, heritage, and the economy. You can look forward to our continuing support as you begin implementing the Preferred Action Alternative.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Bartell
Chairman of the Board

William K. Guglielmo
President

OFFICERS

Douglas W. Bartell, *Chairman of the Board*
Vice President & Regional Lender
Oneida Savings Bank

Ann Rushlo, *First Vice Chairman*
Assistant Vice President
HSBC Mortgage Corp (USA)

Deborah Adamo, *Second Vice Chairman*
Rome Branch Director
The Rowan Group Insurance Agency

Barbara M. Chilluffo, *Treasurer*
Assistant Vice President
Rome Savings Bank



The Preservation Society for the American Revolution, Inc.

2630 Douglas Drive • Bloomfield, MI 48304

A 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization

November 12, 2008

Debbie Conway, Superintendent
Fort Stanwix National Monument
112 E. Park Street
Rome, NY 13440

Dear Debbie:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft General Management Plan for Fort Stanwix. I have noticed vast improvements in the site since my last visit. I am particularly impressed with the new visitor center. The center and its vignettes give the visitor the chance to step into the time and place of the era. I am sure that the large collections storage area is an asset to those pursuing the importance of this pivotal time in our history.

I have reviewed the document which was given to me, and have several comments to make. There are many areas which I am not qualified to comment. However, as a visitor and student of the Revolutionary War there are areas which I would like to participate.

Signage: Recently my wife and I drove to the site from the New York Thruway and exited at Rome-Verona and found that the signs carried us well. Because the site is barely above the elevation of Black River Boulevard, we almost missed the site; however, the visitor center brought us in. Signage is needed for direction to the parking areas. We visited on a Sunday morning and were able to park on the street in front of the visitor center so we had no problems. The signage should also advise which lots will validate the parking tickets as well.

Interpretation: I like the thought of a meadow around the structure as it would enhance the experience. The map on page 27 of the report shows a dotted line around the perimeter of the fort and a meadow inside of the line would give a good visual experience to the visitor. I believe that it is very important to emphasize the reason that the fort is located where it is (Oneida carrying place). Also, funding should be solicited to complete the fort by erecting the exterior casement. This would complete the visual interpretation of the fort.

Maintenance & Rehabilitation: It is important to resolve minor problems before they become major ones. The fort should be thoroughly examined for potential condition problems and a plan for preventative maintenance should be established. Budgeting for major work is important and could be accomplished on an ongoing basis.

Partnerships & Marketing: I was pleased to learn of the partnerships formed with the Oriskany site as well as with the Indian Nations which are part of the history of your area. The siege of Fort Stanwix played a significant role in the overall Saratoga Campaign, and I believe that partnerships of some sort

could provide an increase in historical tourism to northeast New York and western Vermont. Perhaps discussions with the other sites of the campaign could be initiated so that at minimum a brochure could be printed showing a tie between the sites. I believe that area merchants would be willing to sponsor the print costs. Finally, I am pleased that you are working closely with the schools and other youth groups on projects. Our young people are the future of the country. I have enclosed a copy of a program that the History Channel is funding. Perhaps it would be of interest to the organizations in the Rome area.

I hope that the information I have provided will be of value to you and your committee. Again we enjoyed our visit in October which was enhanced by your staff and Kelly Cardwell in particular.

Very truly yours,



Marvin F. Ninneman

The Preservation Society for the American Revolution

NPS Response: The Final GMP/EIS clarifies in Sections 2.3, 2.3.4, and 2.4 that reconstruction of limited features of the fort could be considered if funding is secured from outside sources and it meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Structures and applicable Section 106 compliance requirements. As for maintenance of existing structures, Section 2.3.5, Fort Structures, states that features in fair or poor condition should be rehabilitated and those in good condition should received preventive maintenance. Improved signage is recognized as a goal of the Fort Stanwix GMP/EIS in Alternative 2, Section 2.3.2, Parking and Circulation.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Public Comments on the
Fort Stanwix National Monument
General Management Plan

The National Park Service is seeking written public comments regarding the plans described in the Fort Stanwix National Monument Draft General Management Plan. Please write your comments and questions below, and they will be taken into account in the Final General Management Plan.

Name: Joseph M. Occhipinti III

Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Comments/Questions: Is it possible to expand the building
structures at the Fort that are missing.
Does the NPS plan on considering
these structures in the Main plan. (Plan 2)
I feel the Fort is not whole or
Historically correct without them.
NPS should consider them in this
Main plans (Plan 2) if accepted.
I hope in the future the Fort will be open
year around with different events also more
Indian events with the Troop's Confederacy as
we did in the past. History of the Fort.

NPS Response: The Final GMP/EIS clarifies in Sections 2.3, 2.3.4, and 2.4 that reconstruction of limited features of the fort could be considered if funding is secured from outside sources and it meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Structures and applicable Section 106 compliance requirements. As an operational matter, Fort Stanwix NHS will consider holding different events in the off-season as far as is feasible in terms of staffing, financing, and weather.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Public Comments on the
Fort Stanwix National Monument
General Management Plan

The National Park Service is seeking written public comments regarding the plans described in the Fort Stanwix National Monument Draft General Management Plan. Please write your comments and questions below, and they will be taken into account in the Final General Management Plan.

Name: Joseph Pacheco

Address: [REDACTED]

Email: _____

Comments/Questions: Will there be a closer partnership with the City of Rome on other local events Veterans Day Memorial Day etc.

Is it possible to add new Building + Structures that are missing for a Complete Fort
Ravine, Buildings etc

NPS Response: The Final GMP/EIS clarifies in Sections 2.3, 2.3.4, and 2.4 that reconstruction of limited features of the fort could be considered if funding is secured from outside sources and it meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Structures and applicable Section 106 compliance requirements. As an operational matter, Fort Stanwix NHS will consider holding different events during the off-season as far as is feasible in terms of staffing, financing, and weather.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Public Comments on the
Fort Stanwix National Monument
General Management Plan

The National Park Service is seeking written public comments regarding the plans described in the Fort Stanwix National Monument Draft General Management Plan. Please write your comments and questions below, and they will be taken into account in the Final General Management Plan.

Name: David Wolah
Address: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Comments/Questions: It was very encouraging to hear the level of cooperation between the State of NY and the Park Service. Hopefully the City of Rome will also become an active participant in the park's role.

I hope the Park proceeds with Alternative 2. Alternative 1 is just not acceptable. Good luck!



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Public Comments on the
Fort Stanwix National Monument
General Management Plan

The National Park Service is seeking written public comments regarding the plans described in the Fort Stanwix National Monument Draft General Management Plan. Please write your comments and questions below, and they will be taken into account in the Final General Management Plan.

Name: Eric L. Beattie

Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Comments/Questions: _____

I support the preferred alternative and in particular
depicting the role of native americans in an enhanced
and accurate manner.

Enhancements of the park and additional outreach
to the region are positive goals.



Dan Umstead

10/23/2008 11:03 PM

To <debbie_conway@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject GMP comments from Dan Umstead

Deb

These comments regarding the GMP come from a "private citizen and VIP"..

a. I strongly suggest that the park add more NPS interpretation staff as part of the new plan. As a VIP, I believe you are under staffed and additional interpretation staff would enhance the visitor experience at all locations.

b. As a VIP, I strongly recommend the new plan include the addition of a ravelin and other missing structures. It is very difficult to interpret these structures, and the complete story of the fort, without them.

c. As a VIP, I would recommend an "Oneida Indian Wayside". It would enhance the Oneida story.

Excellent presentation tonight...very informative.

NPS Response: The Final GMP/EIS clarifies in Sections 2.3, 2.3.4, and 2.4 that reconstruction of limited features of the fort could be considered if funding is secured from outside sources and it meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Structures and applicable Section 106 compliance requirements. Alternative 2 calls for increased staffing in Section 2.3.5. This is dependent upon the availability of increased funding. Development of an "Oneida Indian Wayside" could occur depending upon funding. Enhanced interpretation of Indian peoples is discussed in Section 2.3.2, Interpretive and Educational Programming, of the Final GMP/EIS



"Dan Umstead"

10/23/2008 05:37 PM

To <Debbie_Conway@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject GMP

Deb..

One item that caught my eye....on page 36 in the Historic Context, paragraph 3 in that section discussing the battle, there is no mention of the Oneidas at the fort during the siege. It only says.."Americans defending the fort. Can it be amended to include the Oneidas too?????

Thanks

Dan Umstead, MLS, MVR
Director, First Allies Living History Project
Oneida Indian Nation
315.534.1312

NPS Response: The Final GMP/EIS has included "Indians" in Section 3.2.1.



"Miller, Richard A."

10/06/2008 02:48 PM

To <Debbie_Conway@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject draft general management plan

Hi Debbie,

I wanted to pass along a quick thought.

First off, thanks for sending me a copy of the draft general management plan...It was well done and very interesting.

I have one comment, for whatever that may be worth... The Fort's issues with signage, lack of parking, the funky intersections, etc. are not limited to your facility and speaks in general terms to much needed improvements toward making a more pedestrian friendly and walkable community. Our friends at DOT need to be brought in to help make substantial changes to the arterial, Erie Boulevard and East Dominick Street... That would greatly enhance not only the Fort, but the city and its CBD as well!

Anyways, that is my 2 cents worth...

Enjoy your day!

Rich

Rich Miller
Director, Parks & Recreation
198 N. Washington St.
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 339-7656 (voice)
(315) 339-7788 (fax)
miller@romegov.com

NPS Response: The New York State Department of Transportation indicated in a letter (November 26, 2008) that transportation improvements are being made in the area of NYS Routes 26 and 46 between East Domenick and Chestnut Streets. This material has been incorporated in Section 2.3.4 of the Final GMP/EIS. Fort Stanwix NM will continue to work with state and local authorities to improve pedestrian and vehicular access around the fort.

List of Preparers

National Park Service Planning Team

Fort Stanwix National Monument

Debbie Conway, Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Jeffrey Collins, Former Acting Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Ken Mabery, Former Acting Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument
James Perry, Former Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Michael Caldwell, Former Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Gary Warshefski, Former Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Craig Davis, Collections Manager, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Mike Kusch, Chief of Interpretation & Resources Management, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Leigh Ann Medick, Budget Technician, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Todd Gerrard, Acting Facilities Manager, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Jack Veazy, Former Facilities Manager, Fort Stanwix National Monument

Northeast Region - Boston Office

Joanne Arany, Former Project Manager/Landscape Architect
Ellen Levin Carlson, Community Planner
David Gaines, Former Project Manager
Larry Lowenthal, Historian
James C. O'Connell, Community Planner
Sarah Peskin, Director, Special Planning Projects

National Park Service Project Consultants

Dennis R. Reidenbach, Regional Director, Northeast Region
Chrysandra Walter, Former Deputy Regional Director, Northeast Region
Robert W. McIntosh, Associate Regional Director, Planning and Stewardship, Northeast Region
Terrence Moore, Chief of Planning, Northeast Region
Lawrence D. Gall, Former Team Leader, Stewardship and Partnerships, Northeast Region
Michael Creasey, Superintendent, Lowell National Historic Park
Joanne Blacoe, Interpretive Planner, Northeast Region
Dave Clark, Environmental Specialist, Northeast Region
Duncan Hay, Historian, Northeast Region
Becky Joseph, Former Ethnographer, Northeast Region
Chris Martin, Integrated Resource Manager, Saratoga National Historical Park
Marjorie Smith, Landscape Architect, Northeast Region

Community Consultants

Carol Allaire, City of Rome Planning Department
Hon. James F. Brown, Mayor, City of Rome
Hon. Joseph Griffo, Former Mayor, City of Rome
John Sorbello, City of Rome, Director, Planning Department
Bill Guglielmo, President, Rome Area Chamber of Commerce
Fred Miller, Exec. Director, Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission
Mary Speicher, Administrator, Rome Historical Society
Allan Foote, Northern Frontier Project
Brian Patterson, Oneida Indian Nation
Shawna Papale, Mohawk Valley Economic Development/Oneida County
Shirley Waters, Publisher, Rome Sentinel

Other Consultants

ICON architecture, inc.

Beatrice Bernier, Planner and Public Involvement
Elizabeth Foster, Planner
Jonathan S. Lane, Planner and Public Involvement
Anne McKinnon, Planner and Public Involvement
Richard Perkins, Graphic Designer

The Saratoga Associates

Matt Allen
Dan Sitler

Larry Van Druff, Professor, State University of New York – College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Pamela Grupp, Regional Cultural Resources Coordinator/Senior Engineering Technician, New York State
Department of Transportation
Ron Thomson, Interpretive Specialist